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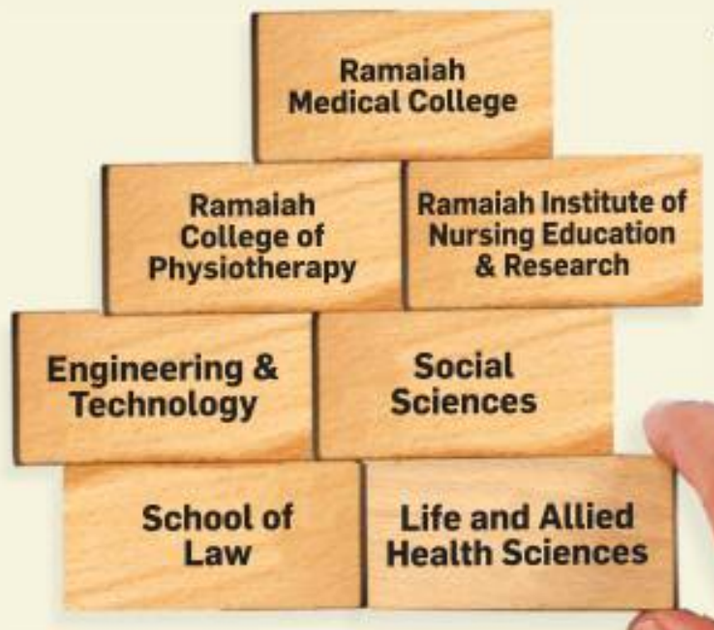

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NEARBY

Omicron sub-lineages present in city: report

BENGALURU

Nearly a month after sewage surveillance in Bengaluru showed the presence of possible BA.4 and BA.5 sub-lineages of Omicron variant of Coronavirus in some samples, the Indian SARS-CoV -2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) confirmed it on Tuesday.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Movie spurs spike in demand for Labradors

BENGALURU

The star of the recently released Kannada film, *777 Charlie*, was a dog which played the titular character. The film's popularity has catapulted the fame of the breed of the dog, Labrador, and led to a sudden demand for these animals, which are sometimes also bought from breeders. In the wake of this, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has urged fans not to buy dogs from breeders, but to only adopt them.

BENGALURU ▸ PAGE 3

Uddhav Thackeray fights to keep control over Shiv Sena

Rebels, now in Assam, reiterate call to quit MVA

ALOK DESHPANDE
MUMBAI

A revolt against Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray by his second-in-command and senior Minister, Eknath Shinde, on Wednesday turned into a battle for the control of the Shiv Sena. In an emotional address to the people over Facebook, Mr. Thackeray said he would resign as Chief Minister and leave even the Sena's top position if the party workers told him to do so to his face.

Later in the evening, Mr. Thackeray moved from the Chief Minister's official residence in south Mumbai to his family's Matoshri bungalow in suburban Bandra – a declaration he made in the speech. Thousands of Sena workers lined up on the road to Matoshri as a show of strength.

Mr. Thackeray, now COVID-positive, said: "We joined hands with Congress and NCP [Nationalist Congress Party], but it's not they who are telling me to quit. The sad part for me is that my own people [Shiv Sainiks] have lost trust in me. I considered them mine; I don't know about them. I am ready to resign. But come and meet me face-to-face. Tell me that I should quit on my face and I will resign."

'Exit alliance'

Mr. Shinde, who is in Guwahati with the MLAs supporting him, has been claiming the support of the majority of Shiv Sena MLAs and demanding that the Sena ally with the BJP, for the sake of Hindutva, and cut ties with the Congress and the NCP.

Replying to Mr. Thackeray, Mr. Shinde tweeted that the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government benefited only its allies and harmed Sena workers.

Earlier in the day, in a letter signed by 34 MLAs, four of them Independents, the Shinde group said the appointment of Ajay Chaudhari as the legislature party leader was illegal, and maintained that Mr. Shinde still held the position. The group claiming majority passed resolutions on the appointments of Mr. Shinde (as legislature party leader) and Mr. Gogawale (as chief whip).

The rebel group's letter was sent to the Governor and the Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8
'CONG. IS UNITED' ▸ PAGE 8

Secure camp: The police stationed outside the Guwahati hotel where the rebel MLAs are staying, on Wednesday. • PTI

Legislator 'escapes' from Shinde camp

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

Even as Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde's rebellion attracted more MLAs and split the party wide apart, legislator Nitin Deshmukh returned to Maharashtra, while alleging a conspiracy by the BJP and Gujarat authorities to abduct him.

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

Earthquake kills over 1,000 in east Afghanistan

600 injured, remote mountain villages bear the brunt

REUTERS
KABUL

The death toll from an earthquake in Afghanistan on Wednesday hit 1,000, disaster management officials said, with more than 600 injured and the toll expected to grow as information trickles in from remote mountain villages.

Houses were reduced to rubble and bodies swathed in blankets lay on the ground, photographs on Afghan media showed.

Helicopters were deployed in the rescue effort to reach the injured and fly in medical supplies and food, Interior Ministry official Salahuddin Ayubi said. "The death toll is likely to rise as some of the villages are in remote areas in the mountains and it will take some time to collect details," he said.

Wednesday's quake was the deadliest in Afghanistan since 2002. It struck about 44 km from the southeastern city of Khost, near the border with Pakistan, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) said.

Razed homes: Residents surveying the damage in the Paktika province in eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday. • AP

"1,000 dead, 1,500 injured, and this number might go up, many families have been lost. Injured people have been taken to Kabul and Gardez," Mohammad Amin Hozaifa, information and culture director of the Paktika province, said.

Most of the confirmed deaths were in the eastern province of Paktika, where 255 people were killed.

Haibatullah Akhundzada, the Supreme Leader of the Taliban, offered his condolences in a statement.

Mounting a rescue operation will prove to be a major test for the Taliban, who took over the country last August and have been cut off from much international assistance because of sanctions.

Shaking was felt by about 119 million people in Pakistan, Afghanistan and India, the European-Mediterranean Seismological Centre (EMSC) said on Twitter. The EMSC put the earthquake's magnitude at 6.1, though the USGC said it was 5.9.

$1-tn scope for digital economy: PM

'Changes unfolding in India have never been seen before on the world stage'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India's digital economy and the infrastructure sector has a total potential for $2.5 trillion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Wednesday. Addressing a meeting of the BRICS Business Forum, Mr. Modi said the digital transformation unfolding in India had never been seen before on the world stage.

China's President Xi Jinping, who is the host of this year's BRICS summit, referred to the crisis in Ukraine and cautioned against "bloc confrontation".

Mr. Modi, who will address the summit virtually on Thursday, said: "There are more than 100 unicorns in over 70,000 start-ups in India, and their number continues to grow. There are investment opportunities of $1.5 trillion under our National Infrastructure Pipeline. The value of the Indian digital economy will reach $1 trillion by 2025... Transformative changes are taking place in every sector in the emerging New India."

> There are more than 100 unicorns in over 70,000 start-ups in India, and their number continues to grow... Transformative changes are taking place in every sector in the emerging New India
> NARENDRA MODI
> PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Modi presented opportunities emerging in areas such as space, blue economy, green hydrogen, clean energy, drones and geo-spatial data.

'Wake-up call'

The BRICS summit is being held against the backdrop of the Ukraine crisis which found reflection in the remarks by Mr. Xi, who hosted the forum as China is the BRICS Chair this year.

He appeared to implicitly criticise NATO and the West over the Ukraine crisis. "The tragedies of the past tell us that hegemony, group politics and bloc confrontation bring no peace or security; they only lead to wars and conflicts," he said. "The Ukraine crisis is another wake-up call for all in the world. It reminds us that blind faith in the so-called 'position of strength' and attempts to expand military alliances and seek one's own security at the expense of others will only land oneself in a security dilemma."

The Chinese President also hit out at western sanctions, saying that "it has been proved time and again that sanctions are a boomerang and a double-edged sword".

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

COMED-K entrance test to be merged with CET from next year

Fee hike capped at 10% in govt. and pvt. engineering colleges for 2022-23

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Limiting the hike in fees to 10% as against the demand to increase it by 25% for engineering courses in private and government colleges for the current academic year (2022-23), the State government announced on Wednesday that from next year COMED-K entrance test will be merged with Common Entrance Test (CET) for engineering courses.

> The KUPECA had demanded a 25% hike in fees as there had been no increase for the last two years, from 2020-21. But, on consultation, they finally agreed to a 10% hike.
> C. N. ASHWATH NARAYAN,
> Minister for Higher Education

These key decisions were taken at a meeting chaired by Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan, with representatives of the Karnataka Unaided Private Engineering Colleges Association (KUPECA) here.

The fee hike is applicable to those students who have been allotted government seats in private engineering colleges. Further, KUPECA representatives promised that they would voluntarily extend support to the government to take action against those who collect extra fee by any other means.

Further, he said, "The KUPECA had demanded a 25% hike in fees as there had been no increase for the last two years, from 2020-21. But, on consultation, they finally agreed to a 10% hike."

One exam

In another major decision, the meeting decided to cancel the COMED-K exam from next year. Instead, it would be merged with CET and would be conducted at once at the all-India level.

The eligibility for admission would be based on the ranking students secure in the merged CET and seat sharing would continue as at present. Mr. Ashwath Narayan said that the modalities for merging COMED-K with CET would be worked out.

Demolitions were lawful, U.P. govt. tells SC

'It was not targeted at any community'

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

The Uttar Pradesh government said in the Supreme Court on Wednesday that the demolitions carried out in the aftermath of violence following remarks made against Prophet Muhammed were not "extra legal punitive measures" targeting persons of a particular religious community linked to rioting, but routine measures taken by independent local authorities against owners of illegal structures.

In a 63-page affidavit, the government denied having done anything "extraordinary" and stuck to its portrayal of autonomous development authorities and their bulldozers going about their duties dispassionately without fear or favour. It snubbed petitioner Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind's version of "retaliatory" action as "absolutely false". "We take strong exception to the attempt by the petitioner [Jamiat] to name the highest constitutional functionaries of the State and falsely colour the local development authorities' lawful actions strictly complying with the U.P. Urban Planning and Development Act of 1973 as 'extra legal punitive measures' against accused persons, targeting any particular religious community," the government affidavit said.

A protest in New Delhi against the demolitions. • AP

CONTINUED ON ▸ PAGE 8

'BBMP does not own Idgah maidan'

Civic chief invites wakf board to make claim and get khata in its name

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has no ownership of the land on which the Idgah maidan in Chamarajpet stands on, said Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath. He invited the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf to submit relevant documents and make a claim before the civic body and get a khata done in its name.

For the past three weeks, the ownership of Idgah maidan had turned controversial after a few Hindutva organisations sought permission from the BBMP to hold events on the ground.

"Since the BBMP doesn't have ownership of the land and there is an injunction against the civic body from entering the property, there is no question of the civic body permitting others to hold events on the grounds," he said.

A file photo of prayers being offered at Idgah maidan at Chamarajpet in Bengaluru.

Explaining the confusion, Mr. Giri Nath explained that the 1974 City Survey records the grounds as a playground and shows the holder of this property as the city corporation.

"Ever since then, the civic body has had possession of the land and in 2006, the corporation also built a building, a public toilet, on that land. Nobody came forward and took objection to either the entry in the city survey, our possession or us building a public toilet there," explained Mr. Giri Nath.

However, post the recent controversy, the Karnataka State Board of Auqaf claimed ownership of the grounds and made public the relevant documents, a 1964 Supreme Court order and a subsequent 1965 wakf notification, showing the land as a wakf property.

"The Karnataka State Board of Auqaf should have represented themselves during the 1974 City Survey and recorded their ownership of the land, or they could have made the claim anytime later and got the khata transferred in their name, which unfortunately they have not done. Even now, I request the board to come forward, submit relevant documents, make a claim, and get a khata done," Mr. Giri Nath said.

However, he was quick to add that a khata did not create ownership of the land and only reflected the present possession of the land.

'Road accidents claimed 27 lives every day last year'

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

After a decline in accident rates in 2020, there was a rise in the number of road accidents and fatalities in 2021. The number of accidents jumped from 34,178 to 34,647, and the number of those killed went up from 9,760 to 10,038. Road accidents claimed 27 lives every day.

These were the findings of a road accident report recently brought out by the Police Computer Wing and Crime Records Bureau of the State Police Department.

The report further stated that national highways accounted for 34.73% of the accidents, followed by State highways (27.66%).

It may be noted that after the outbreak of the pandemic, restrictions on the movement of vehicles were more in 2020 compared to 2021.

In Karnataka, the highest number of accidents was reported in Bengaluru (3,213), followed by Tumakuru with 2,020. The most number of people were killed in road accidents in Belagavi (684), followed by Bengaluru city (654).

The highest number of road accidents involved two-wheeler riders and pedestrians . In 2021, bikers accounted for 55%, followed by car/SUV/van/taxi (19.27%), truck/lorry (7.91%), autorickshaw (5.42%), and others (8.48%).

Accidents also claimed the lives of 4,938 two-wheeler riders and injured 19,241. Not wearing helmets claimed the lives of 2,661 bikers and pillion riders, while on the other hand, not wearing seatbelts was attributed to the death of 1,234 people. When it comes to the age group, 71.2% of people who died in the road accidents were aged between 18 and 45.

RELATED REPORT ▸ PAGE 2

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Text & Context

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NEWS IN NUMBERS

Fall in malaria numbers

86 The percentage by which the number of malaria cases in India has fallen since 2015, according to a report by the non-profit organisation Malaria No More. There has also been a 79% reduction in the number of deaths caused by the disease between 2015 and 2021, the report stated. The report titled, "India's march towards malaria elimination", also informed that the country's budgetary allocation to fight malaria more than doubled between 2017 and 2019. It was also made a notifiable disease in 31 States and Union Territories. PTI

Job vacancies

70,000 The vacancies that will be filled by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC) in various central government departments. The commission has said that it would start the process of recruitment on Tuesday in a public notice. The announcement by the SSC assumes significance as Prime Minister Narendra Modi had last week asked various central government departments to undertake recruitment of 10 lakh people in the next year-and-a-half. PTI

Green investment

223 In $ billion, the investment India will need to meet its goal of wind and solar capacity installations by 2030, according to a new report by research company BloombergNEF. The government has set a target of increasing non-fossil power capacity to 500 gigawatts (GW) by 2030. By 2021, 165 GW of zero-carbon generation had already been installed in the country. Central Electricity Authority forecasts the country's reliance on coal to drop from 53% of installed capacity in 2021 to 33% in 2030. PTI

Fall in exports

48 In percentage, the fall in exports of Ukrainian grain in the first 22 days of June from a year earlier to 9,07,000 tonnes, according to Agriculture Ministry data. The volumes included 8,03,000 tonnes of corn, 78,000 tonnes of wheat and 21,000 tonnes of barley. Ukraine exported up to six million tonnes of grain a month before Russia's attack. May export volumes fell to about 1.7 million tonnes as Ukraine, which used to export through seaports, has been forced to export by train via its western border or via the Danube river. REUTERS

Tremor in Afghanistan

1,000 The death toll from the earthquake in eastern Afghanistan, according to a local official in the province of Paktika, one of the hardest-hit areas in the country. Information remained scarce on the magnitude 6 temblor that struck the Paktika province, but it comes at a time when the international community has largely left Afghanistan after the Taliban takeover in 2021 which will complicate any relief efforts the country is expected to receive. AGENCIES

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

EXPLAINER

Understanding bird strikes and aviation safety

When are aircraft more prone to bird strikes? How is the DGCA planning to prevent such incidents?

THE GIST

- Following two back-to-back bird strikes incidents, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation in a directive to all airport operators has asked all airports to "review their wildlife hazard management plans" for "within and outside the airfield".
- An analysis of 62,416 verified records by the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Bird Strike Information System showed that most bird hits were in or near airports during the take-off and approach phases of flight.
- The Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History has now expanded a study of air hazard issues to 12 airports across India. Its studies show that each airport in India has its unique ecological setting and therefore solutions are different.

MURALI N. KRISHNASWAMY

The story so far: On June 19, a SpiceJet Boeing 737-800 on the Patna-Delhi sector (SG723) with 185 passengers was in the climbout phase (the period immediately after take-off during which the aircraft climbs to a predetermined cruising altitude) when it suffered a bird hit in its left engine. Ensuing visuals showed flame streaks. The engine was shut down and the flight returned to Patna about 20 minutes later. The same day, an Indigo Airbus A320N (6E-6394, Guwahati-Delhi) was taking off when it experienced a bird hit in the left engine. The aircraft returned to Guwahati about 15 minutes after its departure. In both incidents, some of the engine blades were damaged or had fractures. India's civil aviation regulatory body, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), has ordered an inquiry. Further, in a directive to all airport operators, it has asked all airports to "review their wildlife hazard management plans" for "within and outside the airfield". Being the monsoon season with heightened wildlife activity, this would include grass trimming, runway inspections, garbage disposal in operational areas and ensuring water drainage.

What is the data on bird strikes?

The International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has been collecting bird strike data since 1965, but it was in 1979 that it requested member states to begin reporting bird strikes to aircraft into a data entry and retrieval system. The ICAO Bird Strike Information System (developed with the help of experts) has been in operation since 1980. An analysis of 62,416 verified records showed that most hits were in or near airports during the take-off and approach phases of flight. About 60% occurred at or below 30 metres or around 100 feet, according to a paper on the ICAO bird strike information system. Another paper, "Bird strikes at commercial airports explained by citizen science and weather radar data", says that in 2017, "over 14,000 bird strikes were reported only in the United States; for that year alone, the cost was $142 million". A third paper, "The costs of bird strikes and bird strike prevention", by Allan J.R., says that, globally, "the annual costs of bird strikes are an estimated $1.2 billion". Scientists from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and partners say that information on bird movements throughout the year can help avoid aircraft damage and risk to passengers. In 2018, the Federal Aviation Administration data on civilian flights in the U.S. recorded 14,661 collisions with wildlife, which is over 40 cases a day.

A report says that in India in 2021, DGCA data has recorded over 1,400 suspected and confirmed wildlife incidents (for 20.5 lakh aircraft movements), up from nearly 840 cases in 2016 (for 22.9 lakh aircraft movements). Most of the incidents were reported from Delhi and Mumbai airports.

In India's National Aviation Safety Plan (2018-2022), which is in line with ICAO's Global Aviation Safety Plan, the DGCA has said that one of the key safety priorities (under the Safety Enhancement Initiatives of the Regional Aviation Safety Plan - Asia Pacific) is looking at "wildlife and bird strikes". It says the audits suggested by the National Bird Control Committee (NBCC) are being followed. Under Safety Performance Indicators of "Number of reported bird strikes at all Indian airports per 10,000 movements", it lists a Safety Performance Target of 4.26 for the year 2022.

How is it from a pilot's perspective?

A senior commander who flies the Airbus A320 aircraft told *The Hindu* that bird hits are a risk that flight crew have to be constantly ready for, especially during the take-off phase as the aircraft is fully loaded and fuel-laden. If a bird hit is suspected, the crew have to watch all parameters. There are the usual places where the crew knows the bird hit has occurred, i.e., the windshield, the belly and the engines. Damage to the engines can vary with twisted fan blades, blade separation and vibrations. This could result in an engine imbalance as well. Apart from this there can be damage to the wing surfaces (flaps, spoilers and slats) and the airframe too. This results in huge losses for the airline operator.

He added that there are crew standard/operating procedures laid down by the manufacturers and the airline company, followed by simulator checks. He said adherence to wildlife management rules is imperative within and around the airport and its vicinity.

What is the perspective from experts? What is being done to help minimise instances of bird hits?

Captain A. (Mohan) Ranganathan, a former airline instructor pilot and aviation safety adviser – he brought out a bird strike handout when he was part of the Bird Strike Committee in 2011 – told *The Hindu* that the recent bird hit incidents show that all areas surrounding an airport ought to be clear of slaughter houses and garbage dumping (factors which can attract wildlife and increase risks). Airports are also expected to have incinerators to dispose of garbage removed from aircraft. The expert said that airlines are supposed to have some standard operating procedures for bird strike prevention. He added that for pilots, it is important to have constant monitoring. After lift-off, the pilot flying should have his eyes on the instruments and the pilot not flying has to have his/her eyes outside to look out for birds. This has to be emphasised during training. Finally, he said, understanding bird behaviour is something crew and operators need to be familiar with. Close to the ground, the instinctive response of birds is to get away from the aircraft path. Bird strikes occur when pilots try to climb over them during the initial take-off phase. Birds get sucked into an engine as an aircraft engine's field of ingestion is quite high with take-off thrust. Over 100ft, birds tend to dive to avoid an aircraft. Therefore, it is important to understand bird behaviour.

The Hindu also spoke to Dr. P. Pramod, Principal Scientist, Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History (SACON), Coimbatore, which is a Centre of Excellence under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. SACON has been closely associated with the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) as bird hits affect both organisations. From 2017-2020, SACON undertook a study of air hazard issues at three airports – Coimbatore (Tamil Nadu), Ahmedabad (Gujarat) and Kannur (Kerala). An analysis of the ecosystem (a radius of 10 km) revealed that the problems are not the same everywhere.

In India's National Aviation Safety Plan (2018-2022), which is in line with ICAO's Global Aviation Safety Plan, the DGCA has said that one of the key safety priorities is looking at "wildlife and bird strikes".

SACON has now expanded the study to 12 airports across India based on a memorandum of understanding signed in February 2020 with the AAI. A similar arrangement is being worked out with the IAF. SACON is to start a series of training programmes from August 2022 involving airport bird hazard management teams. The scientist says that it must be noted that each airport in India has its unique ecological setting and therefore the solutions are different. For example, if there are 60 avian species that could be around an airport, only five to six could pose a problem. A study of birds over a year would lead to a specific list of recommendations on how to handle the dynamics of these species. There are good results in airports where there is 100% implementation.

Highlighting an example, he said that in Coimbatore, 90% of bird hits involved the lapwing, a ground-nesting bird. It was found that the species was using the airport area as a nesting ground, seeking the open soil stretches near the runway. SACON recommended reintroducing grass in these areas as it was an instance of habitat management. SACON has also worked on engineering solutions at airports and surroundings to keep problematic birds at bay.

As far as bird hits are concerned, Category I hits, which involve large birds such as kites that are dangerous to aircraft, are on the decline. It is hits that involve small birds that are on the rise now, he added. In civil aviation, it has been observed that a height of 100 metres is usually where most of the hits occur when the aircraft is in either the take-off or landing phase.

In the Indian scenario, a proper database needs to be developed that collects essential details such as the bird species, the height of occurrence and exact geospatial coordinates.

The scientist also highlighted SACON's National Avian Forensic Laboratory which can identify the bird species using just blood samples, tissue and feathers (through DNA and feather microstructure) – which is usually what aircraft engineers get from a bird-hit aircraft. He added that SACON was reaching out to Indian airports on the need to ensure proper forensics and a data reporting and management system.

Bird strikes are a significant threat to flight safety. • GETTY IMAGES

Bird Trouble

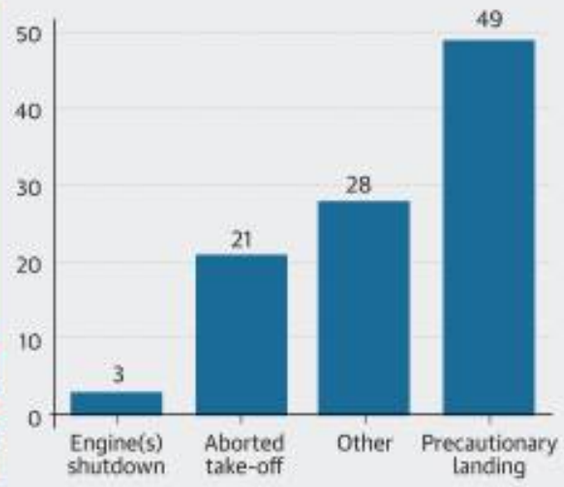
These charts taken from a summary of wildlife strikes reported to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) Bird Strike Information System from 2008 to 2015, explains bird strikes; when they occur, which birds are more prone to such incidents, the damage done to aircraft and so on

FLIGHT PHASE 2008-2015

Most bird hits happen predominantly during the approach and take-off phases

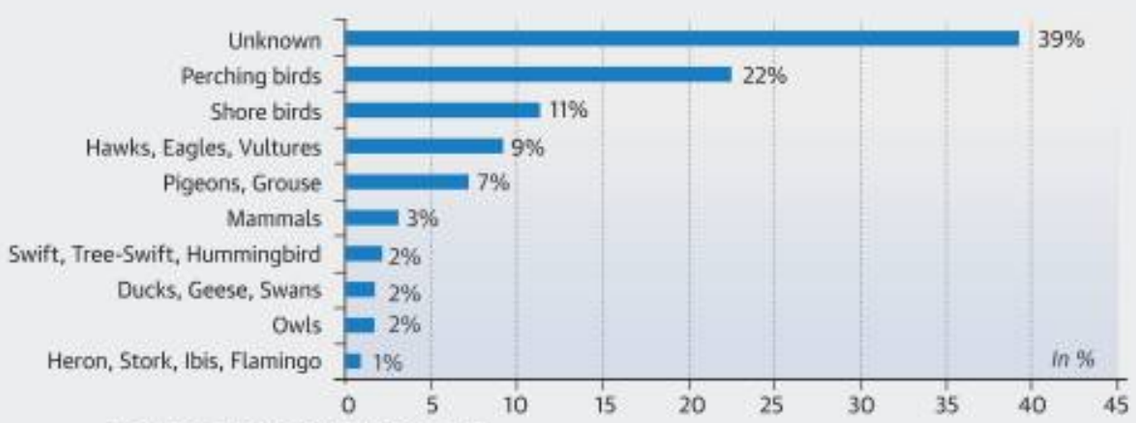
EFFECTS ON FLIGHT

In the event of a bird hit, flights usually resort to a precautionary landing



COMPARISON BETWEEN WILDLIFE STRUCK AMONG SPECIES

Perching birds are the most common type of birds which are prone to bird strikes



PARTS OF AIRCRAFT DAMAGE

The engines and wings are the most affected areas in case of a bird strike

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Bengaluru South	Hubballi	Ballari	Mysuru	Davangere
2nd July 2022 **Mangala Mantapa Auditorium**, NMKRV College for Women Campus 3rd Block, Jayanagar	**2nd July 2022** **K. L. E Societys Bio Technology Auditorium**, B.V.B College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar	**3rd July 2022** **BPSC Pre University College** Ananthapuru Road, Ballari	**3rd July 2022** **Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering** P.B. No.206, Gokulam III Stage, Mysuru	**3rd July 2022** **BAPUJI B School** BAPUJI MBA College, Lake View Campus, S S Layout, Davanagere

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IN BRIEF

BDA allots site to Saalumarada Thimmakka

BENGALURU

The Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has allotted a site in the Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Layout to environmentalist Saalumarada Thimmakka. On Wednesday, the registration records of the site were handed over to the Padma awardee by the Chairman of the BDA S.R. Vishwanath and Commissioner Rajesh Gowda. A release from the BDA stated the allocation of the site has been made following directions from Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

KSRTC felicitates son of KKRTC driver

BENGALURU

On Wednesday, the management of the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) felicitated Anurag Dharu, son of Manik Rao who worked as driver in Kalyana Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC).

Mr. Dharu recently cleared the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) exam with the 569th rank. M. Chandrappa, chairman of KSRTC, praised the effort of Mr. Rao and his wife Kashibai in providing good education and supporting their son to achieve success.

MD of KSRTC Anbukumar said that Mr. Rao and his wife are role models for others.

AAP questions scrapping of PRR tender

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has alleged that the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has malafide intentions in scrapping the tender process for the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project.

In a press release, Bengaluru city president Mohan Dasari said that the State government should compensate the farmers losing the land for the project by providing more than the market price of the land and take up the project.

The Hindu reported about the scrapping of the project recently.

"The Peripheral Ring Road of 74 km, which connects Tumakuru Road and Hosur Road, is an essential solution to the traffic congestion problem. The government must acquire 2,560 acres of land for this purpose. Around 15 years ago, 1,180 acres of land was notified, but the remaining land has not been notified yet. For the last 15 years, the BJP, the Congress, and the JD(S) governments have made a racket out of this project. As a result, the project, which should have been completed has still not commenced. Now, there is a malafide intention behind cancelling this contract," he said.

Report finds Karnataka has 943 black spots

'Of these, 542 locations have been fixed'

SUCHITH KIDIYOOR
BENGALURU

As the number of accidents saw an increase in 2021, the spotlight is on the state of road infrastructure. While the road accident report, recently brought out by the Police Computer Wing and Crime Records Bureau of the State Police Department, attributed more than 90% of the accidents to speeding, the role of black spots and potholes as contributory factors cannot be ignored.

Commissioner of Transport and Road Safety T.H.M Kumar said across the State, 943 black spots or accident-prone areas were identified, out of which, problems have been fixed at 542 locations.

"In the remaining places, by involving agencies, such as NHAI, PWD and others, that have built the road, measures have been taken to attend to the issues. Correcting engineering faults and erecting signages will be taken up. Other than this, through enforcement activities, creating awareness through various media including social media are done by following traffic rules," he said.

The report on accidents states that road features, such as sharp curves, potholes, and steep grades, tend to be more accident prone.

Potholes claim 16 lives

In addition, 16 lives were lost owing to potholes last year. A total of 67 cases were reported due to potholes, out of which 23 happened in Belagavi and 15 in Bengaluru city. Four people lost their lives in Bengaluru city and 12 people were injured. In Belagavi, two people had lost their lives.

In the State, fog and mist resulted in 1,987 accidents, claiming the lives of 647 people. The highest number of cases were reported in Bidar, Chickballapur, Hassan, and Belagavi.

DCP West (Traffic) Kuldeep Kumar R. Jain added that on highways, speeding is a prominent reason for accidents.

"Sleep deprivation while driving also leads to accidents. In city limits, there is prohibition on the movement of heavy vehicles during the day, whereas on the highways, heavy vehicles and other personal vehicles use the road. If the drivers follow all the safety norms at their level, accidents can be reduced to a great extent".

In Bengaluru, Ballari Road that connects Kempegowda International Airport, Tumakuru Road, and Hosur Road are known to be accident prone.

But the report added that what is most significant is that in 2021, accidents, deaths, and persons killed on account of speeding, drunken driving, lane indiscipline, jumping red lights all show a decreasing trend due to the pandemic and imposing of lockdown.

Fact sheet

Year	Accidents	Fatalities	Injured
2017	42,542	10,609	52,961
2018	41,707	10,990	51,562
2019	40,658	10,958	50,447
2020	34,178	9,760	39,492
2021	34,647	10,038	40,754

Huge crowds throng IKEA on first day

ANN MARIA JAMES
ADITHI HOLLA
BENGALURU

Preceded by much hype, IKEA, the Swedish furniture conglomerate, opened its third store in India in Bengaluru, as large crowds thronged the place to get the first look on Wednesday.

Some were there for storage organisers and others for kitchen essentials. Some were just looking around to see what the hype was all about.

A few people said they had skipped work to check out the store.

Some were there after recommendations from family and friends, such as Prashant Menon. 'My sister-in-law residing in the U.S. insisted I visit the store. I came here looking for some lighting to furnish our new house," he said.

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai at the IKEA showroom in the city.

There were also some who wanted to see if the store is better than the ones they've been to in other cities. Ashwini Tallur said, "I wanted to find out how different it is from ones I've seen in Switzerland".

Inaugurated by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, the store in Nagasandra houses over 7,400 products and has attempted to localise production with a range of made-in-India utensils and wooden sofa sets, adapting to the demands of the Indian market.

IKEA intends to increase local sourcing to over 50% in the long haul, said Anisha Agarwal, IKEA Karnataka's Marketing Manager.

Indians typically aren't used to assembling furniture, but at IKEA, over 90% of the store is filled with do-it-yourself furniture. For those who do not wish to assemble it themselves, they can opt for assembly on delivery at a reasonable price, said Francisco, IKEA's Customer Relations and Market Services Manager.

Meanwhile, in collaboration with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), a foot overbridge connecting the store and the Nagasandra metro station has been proposed to be built by the end of the year, said Ms. Agarwal.

Bank manager booked for misusing FD account

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The branch manager of a nationalised bank is among the three persons booked for allegedly misusing the fixed deposit account of a customer to generate overdrafts worth ₹5.7 crore and transferring it to around 30 bank accounts in West Bengal and parts of the State within seven days this May.

The fraud came to light when senior officials stumbled upon the sudden spurts of overdrafts and initiated the probe.

Based on a complaint by D.S. Murthy, Zonal Manager of Indian Bank, the Hanumanthanagar police charged the branch manager, the assistant manager, and the clerk with cheating and forgery on Friday.

Mr. Murthy, in his complaint, said that one of the customers with a balance of ₹1.3 crore had borrowed a loan of ₹75 lakh.

As per the procedure, the bank had put a lien mark on the account (if someone deposits an FD as security for a loan, after that he/she will be unable to withdraw any amount from the FD as the bank will be putting a lock or marking that FD amount as a lien amount).

However, the accused removed the lien mark and generated overdrafts basing the FD account as surety and transferred the ₹5.7 crore to 30 different bank accounts of West Bengal and Karnataka, the police said.

The police have initiated probe and are verifying the documents to track down the beneficiaries' accounts and their link to the accused.

Labourer killed as tree falls on compound

The site of the accident in Bengaluru.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 30-year-old labourer was killed and two others injured when a huge tree on the Indian Institute of Science (IISc.) campus fell on the compound, where the victims were working to build a stormwater drain in Yeshwanthpur on Wednesday morning.

The deceased has been identified as Vasanth, a resident of Anekal. Vasanth, along with others, were working for an agency which had taken up the stormwater drain work for the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The incident occurred around 5.45 a.m. While Vasanth and others were busy with the construction activities, the tree crashed on the compound. Vasanth was crushed to death on the spot, while two others escaped with minor injuries.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP (CMG)
MASTER CONTROL FACILITY (MCF)
PB #66, Hassan-573201, India Ph: 08172-273343 Fax: 08172-273341

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER

1. On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering mode for the following works.

NIT No	Name of the work	Estimated cost (Rs.)	EMD (Rs.)	Period of completion
MCF/CMG/H/eTN-04/2022-23 Dtd. 21.06.2022	Service Contract for providing Technical Support to CCMD, MCF Hassan for a period of 18 months.	16,92,382/-	33,848/-	18 Months

Period during which the tender document can be downloaded : From 23.06.2022 10:00 Hrs. to 04.07.2022 17:00 Hrs
Period for Bid clarification: From 23.06.2022 10:01 Hrs. 05.07.2022 17:00 Hrs.
Last Date and time of reply to Bid clarifications : 06.07.2022 17:30 Hrs.
Last date and time for receipt of tenders : 07.07.2022 17:00 Hrs.
Due date & time of opening of tenders : On 13.07.2022 from 11:30 Hrs onwards

2. Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from website www.isro.gov.in. The bid forms and other details can be downloaded from the website: www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO. All corrigendums, addendums, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the tenderwizard portal only and will not be published in news papers. Bidders may regularly visit the website for any updates.

Division Head, CCMD-CMG

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BESCOM invites tenders through e-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for Procurement of Line Materials

Sl.	Enq. Nos. for Short Term Tender	Description
1	BESCOM/BCP-1420/2022-23	11 kV Horizontal Cross Arm-Galvanised Iron (GI)
2	BESCOM/BCP-1421/2022-23	11 kV, Special 3 Pin Cross Arms-GI
3	BESCOM/BCP-1422/2022-23	LT 2 Pin Cross Arm-GI
4	BESCOM/BCP-1423/2022-23	LT 4 Pin Cross Arm-GI
5	BESCOM/BCP-1424/2022-23	HT ST Support 50x6 mm Flat-GI

Bid Documents available : 24.06.2022 onwards. **Last date for Bid Submission :** 08.07.2022 16:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document :** 11.07.2022 11:00 Hrs.

Sl.	Enq. Nos. for Brief Tender Notification	Description	Qty in Sets
1	BCP-1426/2022-23	Supply of SPMT structural materials for mounting 25/63kVA 4/5 Star rated transformers using 9 Mtr PSCC Poles 300 KG W/L without H-Frame - GI	3000
		SPMT structural materials for mounting 25kVA 4/5 Star rated transformers using 9 Mtr PSCC Poles 300 KG W/L with H-Frame - GI	500
2	BCP-1427/2022-23	Single H-Frame with transformers seating & seating angle support X Cross Arms for 11 Mtr Spun Poles 25kVA (OH Line) - GI	500
		Three H-Frame with transformers seating & seating angle support X Cross Arms for 11 Mtr Spun Poles 25kVA (UG Cable) - GI	500
		Three H-Frame without transformers seating & seating angle support X Cross Arms for 11 Mtr Spun Poles 63/100/250/500kVA (UG Cable) - GI	150
3	BCP-1428/2022-23	DP TC Set for 25/63/100 kVA 4 & 5 Star rated Trs on 9 Mtr Long PSCC 300 KG W/L - GI	5000

Bid Documents available : 24.06.2022 to 25.07.2022 15:00 Hrs. **Last date for Bid Submission :** 25.07.2022 15:00 Hrs. **Opening of Bid Document :** 26.07.2022 15:15 Hrs. The Tenders can be obtained through e-procurement portal website **http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on e-procurement portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with e-procurement help desk contact numbers (+91-8046010000 +91-8068948777) or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Sd/- The General Manager, Ele., Procurement, BESCOM, 4th Floor, K.R. Circle, Bangalore-560 001 Ph.No: 080-22354939, Fax: 080-22352485.

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SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. Y/E.29/2022-23/05 Dated: 17.06.2022

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

Description of Work	Appx. Value
Extension of FOB at Hassan, Mandagere, Bommagondanakere, Amritapura, Ramagiri, Holalkere, Shivamogga Town, Ashokpuram, Birur, Kumsi, Bantawala & Akkihebbalu - Electrical arrangements.	Rs. 26,19,633/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 11:00 hrs. of 11.07.2022**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer Mysuru

PUB/NIB/MUS/PRB/SWR/2022-23

S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the Public that My Client **Sri.K.Nagarjuna & Smt. Sneha.B.K** (Ph No.9743059690) has intending to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration from the owner Smt.C.Rani Residing at No.31, 4th Cross, 2nd Main, Venkatapura, Bangalore 560034. If any persons having any claims, right, title and whatsoever interest over the Schedule Property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your claims, within **4 days** from the date of Publication of this notice. Failing which, it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by any body and my Client will proceed for completion of Sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and Parcel of the Property bearing Municipal New No.26, Khatha PID No.66-88-26, measuring 857.5 Sq.ft., along with Building, Situated at **4th Cross, Venkatapura Extension, Bangalore,** Ward No.66.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-560078.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **GIRISHA** Mathighatta Subramanya, R/a No.5, Lakvin Valley Apt, Ully Block, Manipal Hospital Road, R.R.Nagar, Bangalore-560098 have changed my name to Girish Mathighatta Subramanya vide affidavit dt: 22.06.2022 sworn before Notary A.Manjula, B'lore

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-18)
O.S. NO. 2534/2021

Between:
ICICI Bank Ltd.
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No. 1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Commissariat Road, Bangalore-560025, and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur main road, Bengaluru-560068 through its Authorised representative
Mr. Pramodh. G ...Plaintiff
And:
Mr. V. Santhosh Kumar
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO THE DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

To,
Defendants:
1. Mr. V. Santhosh Kumar,
S/o. Venkatesulu,
Aged about 31 Years,
Residing at No.53,
Veugopalswamy Layout,
Kakow Main Road, Rajankunte,
Yelahanka, Near SBI Bank,
Bengaluru- 560064

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs.3,67,978/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the XIX Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-18), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 20/07/ 2022 at 11:00 A.M. to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 15th Day of June, 2022 at Bangalore.

By Order of the Court,
Assistant Registrar
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocates for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
#3, Queens Road, Bengaluru- 01

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXVI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-67)
O.S. NO. 328/2021

Between:
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at: Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara-390007, having its head office at M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd., No.1, Shobha Pearl, 2nd Floor, MG Road, Commissariat Road, Bangalore-560025, and branch office at: 4/10, Mythree tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru- 560068 through its Authorised representative,
Mr. Pramodh.G ...Plaintiff
And:
Mr. Pawan Bhore
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant:
1. Mr. Pawan Bhore,
S/o. Namdev Rao Bhore, Aged about 31 Years, Residing at #G-16, KK Spring Garden, Dr Ambedkar Nagar Road, Vijaynagar, Whitefield, Near Ganesh Temple, Bengaluru- 560040.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of Rs.3,78,406/- along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXVI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H-67), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 23.08.2022 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the 17th day of June 2022 at Bangalore.

By order of the court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar Vidhii Partners, Advocates, No. 701, Queens Corner 'A', #3, Queens Road, Bengaluru -01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXVIIth ADDL' CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH- 20)
O.S. No. 25759/2020

Between
ICICI Bank Limited,
Having its Registered office at Landmark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai - 400 051 and its branch office at
Mystree Centre, # 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068 ...Plaintiff
And
Sri. Manamadhi Rajesh
...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT

To,
Sri. Manamadhi Rajesh,
S/o. Sri. Haribabu Manamadhi,
39 years, Plate No. 57, Door No.7, 3rd Cross Road, Sapthagiri Layout, Channasandra, Ishamisty Green Apartments, Bangalore, Karnataka - 560 067

WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs. 8,05,847/- (Rupees Eight Lakh Five Thousand Eight Hundred Forty Seven Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble XXVIIth Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH - 20) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 12/09/2022 at 11.00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 15/06/2022

BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COURT DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYA HALL UNIT BANGALORE

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
S A Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore - 560 047

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 72nd ADDL CITY CIVIL JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH No.73) MAYO HALL UNIT

P&SC NO. 25846/2022

BETWEEN
1. MRS. VIMALA S, Aged about 58 years, W/o. Late Mr. Shekar, No. 93, New No. 144, Mackier Road, Bheemji Nagar, Bengaluru-560001
2. MRS. NIRMALA DAMODARAN, Aged about 55 years, W/o., Late Mr. Damodaran N.E, No. 18, 1st Cross, Sir. M.V.Nagar, Kolkere Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bengaluru-560016
3. Mr. S. MADAN, Aged about 53 years, S/o., Late Mr. T. Sreenivasa, No. 465, 'Sai Sannidhi Apartment', 4th Floor, Kalamma Road, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru-560033 **PETITIONERS**
AND
Nil. RESPONDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the petitioners have made the above petition to this Court (CCH-73, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru) under section 276 of the Indian Succession Act, 1925 praying for Grant of Letters of Administration in respect of the Bank Locker Key No. 361, at State Bank of India, St.Mark's Road Branch, Bengaluru of deceased Mr. T. Sreenivasan and Smt. S. Kuttammal, who expired on 27/11/2022 and 15/1/2022 respectively, at Bengaluru.

Interested parties are hereby warned to appear in this court in person or by a pleader duly instructed on the 20th Day of July 2022 at 11 O' Clock in forenoon to show cause against the petition, failing wherein, the matter will be heard and determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court this the 20th Day of June 2022.

By Order of the Court
Sd/-
Deputy Registrar,
City Civil Court,
Maya Hall,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Petitioners
H.V.NAVEEN KUMAR RAO & H.V.SUNIL KUMAR RAO
No.57, 1st Floor, Veerapillai Street, Near Commercial Street, Bengaluru -560001

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This Public Notice is given on behalf of my client Mrs. B.R.Nagasmitha, daughter of B.K.Rajarao, 70, Sankalp, 5th Cross, 1st Main, J C Nagar, Mahalakshmipuram, Bangalore 560 086, My client father Mr. B.K.Rajarao was absolute owner of the property comprised in Survey No.173/1 of Plot No 35, measuring an extent One Ground (2400 Sq.ft.,) Majestic Colony, Velasaravakkam, in view of my client lost of the aforesaid Original Title Deed pertaining the said property Sale deed dated 10.07.1978, executed by Sri Bhoodevi Enterprises represented by its Power agent M/s/. New Majestic traders in favour of my father Mr. B.K.Rajarao, registered as Sale Deed Document No 1255 of 1975 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Kodambakkam. In spite of her sincere efforts and extensive search she could not trace the same. If anyone happen to find the said document or come into possession of the same, he/she is requested to hand over the same my client or to me.

Public is hereby cautioned that any such accidental or mistaken possession of the document will not give any right to any person to deal with the property and in case any such transaction is made, the same will not bind my client.

C.MAHADEVAN,
Advocate
No.456, New Additional Law Chambers
High Court Buildings,
Chennai 600 104.
Phone No. 98404 45349

•FILE PHOTO

ABSTRACT

How the Trinamool Congress sustains power in West Bengal

A paper exploring the strategies used by the incumbent party to maintain its seat of government

THE GIST

- Debajit Jha in his article, 'Prosperity or Decay? Political Stability in West Bengal' draws attention to the strategies used by the Trinamool Congress in maintaining its influence among the people.
- The Trinamool Congress, in the absence of a strong ideology or political organisation or sufficient funds for welfare schemes, had to come up with innovative strategies to maintain its popularity.
- To avoid accusations of cadre corruption, the Trinamool government appointed external agencies to re-distribute welfare schemes. Since the funds used for the schemes are rationed, the government found ways to make sure that the fees paid to the agencies were taken from the beneficiaries of the schemes themselves. The two modes through which money has been extracted include syndicates (in urban regions) and cutting money techniques (rural regions).

REBECCA ROSE VARGHESE

Jha, Debajit, et al. 'Prosperity or Decay? Political Stability in West Bengal', Economic and Political Weekly, Vol 57, Issue No. 25, June 18, 2022

The All India Trinamool Congress (AITMC) or popularly known as just the Trinamool Congress (TMC) continues its regime in West Bengal with a higher vote share in 2021 than in the 2016 Assembly elections. Debajit Jha in his article, "Prosperity or Decay? Political Stability in West Bengal" draws attention to the strategies used by the party in maintaining its influence among the people. He explains how the concept of political society plays an important role in the sustenance of such power and how an intricate relationship based on inter-dependency is created to secure the party's vote share.

Prioritising the rural economy

The paper begins by explaining how the per capita income growth rate of West Bengal during 2011-19 (Trinamool government) not only remained lower than the growth rate of the previous decades of the Left-led regime but also declined below the national average. Looking at the sectors of agriculture, industry and service, it further explained that while there was 3.3% growth in agriculture compared to 1.6% in India, the other two sectors that grab more income and form the engines of modern economy saw a decline in growth. This implies a lack of resources to fund the welfare schemes that the State implemented during this period.

Yet, driven by agricultural growth and expenditures on social welfare schemes, the rural per capita expenditure increased while the level of poverty in the State declined sharply. Data also showed that the unemployment rate of the State in both rural and urban regions was lower than the national average. The evidence of the State's strategy to redirect schemes for agricultural and rural development suggests how the present model of development benefitted the rural region and the agricultural sector at the cost of urban and industry/service sectors. Despite the minuscule amount being spent on schemes, the government ensured that it satisfied the needs of the rural crowd who constitute 70% of the population, forming a majority.

The political society

The success of welfare schemes depends on their effective implementation and for this, the formation of cadre organisations that distribute and deal with any grievances related to the schemes becomes extremely crucial. The role of the informal sector in the formation of what Partha Chatterjee describes as the political society becomes important to understand the process of cadre formation and people's dependence on welfare schemes.

The political society constitutes those who depend on the incumbent political party for their everyday life. The paper focuses on the people from rural regions who have low and uncertain sources of income as a majority of them depend on agriculture for their survival. They depend on panchayats and political parties for assistance in subsidised seeds, fertilizers, farm insurance, etc. This is particularly the case when the drivers of growth do not offer many income opportunities.

During the 34 years of the Left regime in West Bengal, the political, as well as the socio-cultural aspects of society were associated with the party. Strong ideology and pro-poor policies such as the redistribution of land was an important factor in attaining the loyalty of the people and formed what was called the 'party society', as described by Dwaipayan Bhattacharyya in his paper, "Of Control and Factions: The Changing Party Society of Rural West Bengal". Yet, the lack of productive investment in agriculture after re-distribution, among other reasons, caused a transition of power and control in West Bengal.

The Trinamool Congress, in the absence of such a strong ideology or political organisation or even sufficient funds for welfare schemes, had to come up with innovative strategies to maintain the political society and its popularity.

'Cutting money' schemes

The experience of the Left regime shows how party organisations get accused when there is corruption in the implementation of welfare schemes. To avoid such problems, the Trinamool government appointed external agencies that are paid through rents or commissions to re-distribute welfare schemes. Since the funds used for the schemes are rationed, the government found ways to make sure that fees/commissions were paid by the beneficiaries of the schemes themselves.

The two instruments that have been used to extract rent are popularly known as "syndicate" and "cut money". Evidence shows that the rent obtained is shared between the local and central leaders of the ruling political party. Syndicate is a term used for organised corruption and extortion rackets formed by a small group of unemployed youth connected to a political party, mainly controlling a geographical area and operating in the manufacturing and construction sectors of urban West Bengal.

A symbiotic relationship is formed between the syndicate and the government, wherein the syndicate continues its illegal activities with government protection and the government in turn takes a share of the money that the syndicate generates as well as their muscle power to oppress opposition voters.

In the rural regions, 'cutting money' – the unofficial commission charged from the beneficiaries of government schemes by local leaders – ensures the funding for external agencies. The lack of proper understanding of schemes and the 'take it or leave it' attitude of the politicians in a State where economic opportunities are minuscule pushes people to pay for benefits and still not become completely averse to the government as external agencies are considered responsible.

Such methods have different impacts on rural and urban regions. Syndicates, due to their method of extracting money from small businessmen and investors, lead to a decline in economic activity. On the other hand, cutting money generates rent, which also implies that the more the welfare schemes, the more the rent generation. Thus to seek more rent, more government schemes and policies are passed which increases the economic development of the region.

The notion that growth in the economy leads to the growth in popularity of the ruling party is contested through the strategy used by the Trinamool government. While economic agents can have conflicting interests in an unequal society, the incumbent party prefers to serve the lower-income group to gain popularity among the majority. This may not result in true development as the focus of the State is skewed toward a specific need instead of overall growth. Further, resource mobilisation through rent-seeking encourages cadres to work for incumbent interests as their livelihoods depend on it. This results in fear-mongering and violence in the State when there is dissatisfaction among the public over favouritism, deprivation, poor governance, and a lack of transparency.

While the paper goes in-depth on the strategies used by the incumbent party to sustain its power in West Bengal with the use of political society, it does not explain its socio-cultural role which was an important aspect of the party society that helped the Left regime sustain its power for over three decades.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

"Good morning, sir."

"Good morning."

"Sir, could you give some sentences with ago, since and for?"

"I'll ask a few questions and you answer them. When did your father come here?"

"In 1964."

"He came 20 years ago."

"Yes sir."

"He has been here since 1964?"

"Yes sir."

"How long has he been here?"

"He has been here for 20 years, sir."

"So he came here 20 years ago. He has been here since 1964. He has been here for twenty years."

"What is the meaning of 'it will cut no ice' sir?"

"It means that it will have no effect or influence. It won't make any impression whatsoever.

It is pointless to mention this to him. It will cut no ice with him.

It means that it won't have any effect on him. This is always used in the negative. You don't ever say 'This will cut ice with him'."

"What is the meaning of 'jargon', sir?"

"It's a big question. First let me give you an example.

An American plumber wrote to the Bureau of Standards in America saying that he found hydrochloric acid good for cleaning clogged drains. He wanted to know whether he was doing the right thing. The Bureau replied; "The efficacy of hydrochloric acid is indisputable, but the corrosive residue is incompatible with metallic permanence." The plumber wrote back and said he was happy that they agreed. The Bureau wrote again: "We cannot assume responsibility for the production of toxic and noxious residues with hydrochloric acid and suggest that you use an alternative procedure." The plumber wrote again saying how happy he was that they agreed with him. Finally the Bureau wrote thus: "Don't use hydrochloric acid. It eats the hell out of pipes." Well, the plumber didn't use it. The plumber understood when it was written in plain English. He had not understood earlier as it was all written in jargon.

Jargon means 'unintelligible or meaningless talk or writing familiar only to a group or profession', it is full of special words known only to the members of a group. Each profession has its own jargon or special vocabulary. When it is used outside the group, it becomes unintelligible. You have medical jargon, legal jargon, commercial jargon, bureaucratic jargon and so on. When people tend to use long words or try to say something in a roundabout fashion, you find it difficult to understand them. Jargon is also defined as 'speech or writing full of long, unfamiliar or roundabout words or phrases'.

Writers afflicted by jargon don't *use* things but only *utilise* them; they never *do* anything but only *perform*; they don't *carry out* but always *implement* something. I will continue with this next week. It's getting late for you. Goodbye."

"Thank you, sir. Goodbye."

THE DAILY QUIZ

Here's a quiz on video games from the 1980s and 1990s

1 Shigeru Miyamoto, the creator of this video game, initially toyed with the names 'Jumpman' and 'Mr. Video' for the game's protagonist, before naming the character after the landlord of Ninetendo's warehouse. Identify the protagonist.

2 Rockstar Games is an American video game publisher. Name their best-selling video game, whose title references the term used in the U.S. for motor vehicle theft.

3 In 1984, Alexey Pajitnov set out to recreate a video game from his childhood featuring pentominoes. The game, which became Nintendo's top-seller in early 1990, is a portmanteau of a word meaning 'four' and his favourite sport, tennis. Name the video game.

4 Japanese company Nintendo first released this portable video game console with a built-in screen, controls and speakers in April 1989. Identify this console.

5 Identify this arcade fighting game that is popular for its finishing moves called 'Fatalities'.

6 Toru Iwatani, a video game designer, is a Guinness World Record holder for developing a game that has the most "coin-operated arcade machines" installed worldwide. Identify this video game that involves dots and coloured ghosts.

7 Having observed the success of Sonic the Hedgehog and the Tasmanian Devil, the creators of this game wanted to incorporate an animal that was cute but unheard of. They then purchased a book on Tasmanian mammals and picked this animal, naming the character after its species and the visceral reaction to its destruction of boxes. Identify the character.

Compiled by: Ranjani Srinivasan

◄ Released in 1989, this city-building simulation video game is also known as 'Micropolis'. Identify the game based on the screengrab pictured here.

Please send in your answers to the **dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in**

Questions (abridged) and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. This date is celebrated as Army Day. **Ans: January 15. It is the day K.M. Cariappa took over the reins of the Indian Army**
2. The present Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces. **Ans: Ram Nath Kovind**
3. The motto of the Indian Navy. **Ans: 'Sham No Varunah'**
4. This 'elite' regiment's badge comprises the Ashoka borne aloft on an open parachute supported by crossed lances and held together by its title. **Ans: President's Bodyguard**
5. This operational cruise missile, used by the Indian armed forces, is a portmanteau formed from the names of two water bodies. **Ans: Brahmos (Brahmaputra & Moskva)**
6. This quote attributed to Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw: "If anyone tells you he is never afraid, he is a liar or he is a ___". **Ans: Gurkha**
7. The HQs of the Indian Army's Northern and Western Commands. **Ans: Udhampur and Chandi Mandir**
Visual: This person is the only individual to receive this rank. **Ans: Arjan Singh, the only Marshal of the Indian Air Force**

Early Birds: Dhananjay Shukla| Pranzal Joshi| Nikhil Kumar Yadav| Yamini Chowdhury| Harsh Kumar

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

INSACOG confirms presence of Omicron sub-lineages in city

'It is time now to impose fines on mask violators to prevent any further surges'

AFSHAN YASMEEN
BENGALURU

Nearly a month after sewage surveillance in Bengaluru showed the presence of possible BA.4 and BA.5 sub-lineages of Omicron in some samples, the Indian SARS-CoV -2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG) confirmed it on Tuesday.

According to INSACOG's June 21 report, 44 samples sent for genome sequencing between June 2 and June 9 have been found to be infected with Omicron's BA.3, BA.4, and BA.5 sub-lineages.

However, Omicron's BA-.2 continues to be the dominant strain in Karnataka so far. Of the 1,964 samples sequenced in May-June this year, 89.4% are found to be infected with Omicron BA.2.

While Delta was the dominant strain during the first wave with 90.7% of the 4,441 samples, sequenced from March 2021 to December 2021, found to be infected with it, 87.8% of the 6,099 samples, sequenced from January 2022 till April 2022, were found to be infected with Omicron.

Overall (all sub-lineages put together), 99.2% of the 2,215 samples sequenced in May-June 2022 have been found to be infected with Omicron. So far, a total of 12,755 samples have been sequenced in Karnataka.

According to INSACOG , 44 samples sent for genome sequencing between June 2 and June 9 have been found to be infected with Omicron's BA.3, BA.4, and BA.5 sub-lineages.

The presence of BA.2 sub-lineage of Omicron has increased from 80.6% in the first quarter (January to April, 2022) to 89.4% in May-June, 2022. Health and Medical Education Minister K. Sudhakar, in a tweet, said the presence of new Omicron sub-lineages - BA.3, BA.4 and BA.5 - are found to be in their nascent phases.

State Health Commissioner Randeep D. said surveillance will be intensified now to curb the spread in clusters. "Besides targeted testing of ILI/SARI cases, all primary and secondary contacts of positive persons, especially in clusters, and those in the high-risk group will be tested, irrespective of symptoms. We will also keep a watch on hospitalisations," he said.

M.K. Sudarshan, chairman of the State's COVID-19 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), said, "It is time now to impose fines on violators of mask rule to prevent any further surges and contain the spread. We will meet and again recommend this to the State government".

As the new sub-lineages are highly transmissible, masking up is the best weapon. "Besides, getting the precaution shot and following COVID-19 protocols is very important now," he said.

Asserting that the situation is not alarming as of now, the TAC chairman said, "This is not the beginning of the fourth wave. The BA.4 and BA.5 sub-lineages of Omicron had been detected a month ago through sewage surveillance. It is only that INSACOG has confirmed it now and there is no doubt that the current surge is due to these sub-lineages."

TAC member Giridhar R. Babu, who heads Lifecourse Epidemiology at Indian Institute of Public Health in Bengaluru, said it is now essential to continue monitoring clusters and at-risk populations needing hospitalisation.

"While precaution dose coverage should be increased for the vulnerable, especially senior citizens, it is also important to prevent reinfection as reinfections can also be devastating," he said.

The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling in State from June 25

20th edition of event to be held at 10 locations

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The 20th edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling 2022 Karnataka will be held at 10 locations in nine cities in June and July.

The event will cover educational topics like CET, COMEDK, NEET, general education (offbeat courses), Law, Pure Science, Arts, Science & Commerce, Management, PGDM, Engineering & Medicine. The event sets a benchmark in educational and professional guidance. It acts as a platform to connect students and parents with speakers and educational institutions. The event also helps students to take the right decisions after getting the necessary counselling and guidance.

Event sponsors

Platinum Sponsor for the event is Presidency University, Bangalore. The Gold Sponsors are Cambridge Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru. Silver Sponsors for the event are: ACS College of Engineering, Bangalore; K. S. Group of Institutions, Bangalore; Rajarajeswari College of Engineering, Bangalore; Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru; Soundarya Institute of Management and Science, Bangalore; Universal Group of Institutions, Bangalore, Atria Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, and TAPMI, a unit of Manipal Academy of Higher Education, Bangalore. Other associate Sponsors are: CMR University, Bangalore, Karnataka State Open Univeristy, Mysuru; Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar, and Sri Sairam College of Engineering, Bengaluru.

Timings for registration is between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m. The event will be held between 9.30 a.m. and 1 p.m. For more details, contact following mobile numbers: 9739273958 / 9448160126 / 9448871815. Entry is free. First 300 walk-ins will get a surprise gift. All participating students will get free English proficiency test, STEP.

To pre-register for the event and STEP test, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3N2Sy2F

The schedule

Place	Date	Venue	Address
Bengaluru North	June 25	Chowdiah Memorial Hall	16th Cross Rd, Malleswaram, Bengaluru
Mangalore	June 25	Geetha S.M. Shetty Hall	Ramakrishna College, Bunts' Hostel Circle, Mangaluru
Tumakuru	June 26	Birla Auditorium	Siddaganga Institute of Technology, Tumakuru
Bidar	June 26	Gyansudha Vidyalaya	Gyansudha Vidyalaya, Mamankeri campus, Bidar
Bangalore South	July 2	Mangala mantapa Auditorium	NMKRV college for women campus 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru
Hubballi	July 2	K.L.E Society's Biotechnology Auditorium	B.V.B College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar,Hubballi
Ballari	July 3	BPSC Pre-University College	BPSC Pre-University College, Anantapur Road, Ballari
Mysore	July 3	"Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering"	P.B. No.206, Gokulam 3rd Stage, Mysuru
Davangere	July 3	Bapuji Business School	Bapuji MBA College , Lake View Campus, S.S. Layout, Davanagere

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUN. 23	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:48
RISE 01:35	SET 14:09
FRIDAY, JUN. 24	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:49
RISE 02:12	SET 14:58
SATURDAY, JUN. 25	
RISE 05:56	SET 18:49
RISE 02:51	SET 15:48

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	28	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C A slight warm and humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower is possible.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
29°C The weather will be sligt warm but humid. Night will be pleasant. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

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Reduced testing takes day's TPR to 7.19%

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Wednesday reported 676 new infections, among 9,400 persons tested. Following the reduced testing (over 20,000 tests are being done daily since the last one month), the day's test positivity rate (TPR) rose to 7.19%. However, the weekly TPR remained 3.79%. Of the new cases, 626 have been reported from Bengaluru Urban alone. With Wednesday's new cases, the total number rose to 39,17,770.

As many as 804 persons were discharged on Wednesday taking the total recoveries to 39,62,775. Active cases stood at 4,892.

Video of MLA assaulting ITI principal goes viral

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MYSURU

Deputy Commissioner of Mandya C.S. Aswathi on Wednesday visited the government ITI in Mandya for an inspection close on the heels of a viral video showing the local MLA assaulting the principal of the institute.

A video showing Janata Dal (S) MLA M. Srinivas assaulting Naganand, the principal, went viral on the social media, sparking public outrage. This ITI was among the 150 upgraded ones across the State that were virtually inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday.

The alleged assault took place when the MLA was invited to the ITI premises on Monday as per protocol.

The video showed a visibly angry MLA lunging towards Mr. Naganand a couple of times with his hands raised and slapping him. Though the exchange between the MLA and the principal was not clear in the video, sources said the MLA lost his cool with the principal when he was enquiring with him about the work taken up at the institute.

A video grab of the incident in Mandya.

After the video went viral, president of the Mandya District Government Employees' Association Shambhu Gowda brought the matter to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner.

He said he had also spoken to the MLA on the incident. Mr. Gowda said the MLA was suffering from certain health issues and the incident had taken place in a moment of indiscretion.

Contending that he had expressed his strong disapproval of the MLA's behaviour with the principal, Mr. Gowda said he had told Mr. Srinivas that such an incident should not recur. The MLA, who was in Bengaluru, had promised to speak to Mr. Naganand on his return, he added.

Mr. Naganand said he was not aware of the reason for the MLA's behaviour with him. He said he had kept the Deputy Commissioner informed about the development, but made it clear that he would not lodge any complaint against the MLA.

In Mysuru, rebel JD (S) MLC Marithibbe Gowda condemned the alleged assault.

He described it as an "insult" to the teaching community and said such a behaviour from the MLA would hit the self-confidence of teachers.

He asked the MLA to immediately apologise to the principal.

Meanwhile, Ms. Aswathi visited the ITI on Wednesday.

An official statement said the Deputy Commissioner inspected the computer laboratory and took stock of the upgraded equipment at the institute from the principal.

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Text & Context

A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) which includes explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (June 23, Thursday), the following explainers are available:

- An explainer on bird strikes and aviation safety
bit.ly/birdstrikesavia
- Understanding how the Trinamool Congress sustains power in West Bengal
bit.ly/trinacngwestbengal

PODCAST
Women Uninterrupted

- An inter-generational podcast of women of different age groups engaged in difficult but important conversations. Episode 2 of this five-part series features a free-flowing conversation with a teen and a preteen on the very first times they heard of menstruation. This series from *The Hindu* is brought to you by BSCPL Infrastructure Ltd.
- *You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's on iPhone, use Live Text to do the same.*

Puppy love: *777 Charlie* spurs spike in demand for Labradors

But PETA India urges fans to adopt, not shop for the animal

STAFF REPORTER
BENGALURU

The star of the recently released Kannada film, *777 Charlie*, was a dog which played the titular character in the movie. Having released in multiple languages, the film's popularity also catapulted the fame of the breed of the dog, Labrador, and led to a sudden demand for these animals, which are sometimes also bought from breeders.

In the wake of this, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India has urged fans not to buy dogs from breeders, but to only adopt them. As many pet stores and breeders are not registered with the state animal welfare boards, their activities, including selling dogs, are considered illegal.

Hence, while asking the public to refrain from supporting such establishments and breeders, PETA also made a reference to the film's plot where 777 Charlie escapes from a cruel dog breeder, before it ends up on the street.

Similar trends were observed globally where a certain breed of dog was in great demand post a movie or an ad. Later, many such animals were abandoned on the streets, while the owners found it difficult to take care of them.

A still from the film *777 Charlie*.

While there was an increase in the number of abandoned Dalmatians after the release of Disney's remake of the movie *101 Dalmatians* in the U.S., in recent years, many Huskies are being given to shelters or abandoned owing to the depiction of direwolves (which resemble Huskies) in the series *Game of Thrones*, PETA India noted.

"When a certain canine breed is highlighted in the media, whether a Pug by Vodafone or a Labrador in *777 Charlie*, people flock to purchase that breed while keeping *desi* dogs languishing in shelters or on the streets," said PETA India vice-president of Celebrity and Public Relations Sachin Bangera.

"PETA India urges movie fans who have the time, patience, love, and resources to welcome a dog into their home to adopt, not shop."

The release further said that the pedigree dogs, which are bred for certain exaggerated physical traits at pet shops and by breeders, are usually deprived of proper veterinary care and adequate food, exercise, affection, and socialisation. Breeding for traits also leads to higher rates of genetic and hereditary diseases in such dogs. "For instance, Pugs are prone to severe health problems like breathing difficulties, eye problems, encephalitis, and hip dysplasia. Similarly, Labradors are prone to hip and elbow dysplasia, obesity, hypothyroidism, and other difficulties. In contrast, Indian community dogs are healthier and more robust," explained the release.

Auto driver stabbed to death in row over ₹50

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A 24-year-old autorickshaw driver was stabbed to death, allegedly by his friend over a fight for ₹50 at Basaveshwaranagar on Tuesday night.

The deceased has been identified as Shivamadu, a resident of Laggere, and the accused was identified as Shanthkumar, a food delivery executive.

According to the police, they both were childhood friends and used to hang out often.

On Tuesday, they, along with others, went to a cyber cafe, where Shivamadu took out ₹50 from Shanthkumar's pocket for fun.

Heated rows

Heated arguments ensued when Shivamadu refused to return the money despite repeated requests from Shanthkumar.

In the melee, Shanthkumar pulled out a knife and stabbed Shivamadu on his chest and then escaped.

The others rushed the profusely bleeding Shivamadu to a nearby private hospital, where the doctors declared him as brought dead.

The Basaveshwaranagar police have taken up a case of murder and efforts are on to track down Shanthkumar.

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Yet again, CM's Delhi trip ups hopes of ministerial aspirants

There is hope for clarity on whether or not Cabinet expansion will happen

B.S. SATISH KUMAR
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai is set to leave for New Delhi on Thursday on a two-day visit. The sudden plan has raised eyebrows and many leaders in the BJP State unit are speculating about the possibility of him discussing ministerial expansion with central leaders, even though they are occupied with the quick pace of political developments in Maharashtra.

Basavaraj Bommai is set to leave for New Delhi on Thursday on a two-day visit.

The official tour programme of the Chief Minister only says that he is scheduled to meet various Union Ministers in connection with developmental issue. However, sources in the government said that he is trying to meet the party central leaders too. Though there is no confirmation yet, the visit has again given hope to ministerial aspirants.

The party high command had earlier turned down the Chief Minister's request for a ministerial expansion on the grounds that the situation was fluid about the schedule of elections to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) council and zilla and taluk panchayats. Also the elections to the Legislative Council from the Assembly, teachers, and graduates constituency, besides the Rajya Sabha elections, had been announced just then.

Polls scenario

Now, the Legislative Council and Rajya Sabha elections have been completed. Also, there is a sense that ZP polls may not be held before the next Assembly elections while a section of party leaders are of the view that even BBMP council elections may be delayed.

Citing these factors, sources close to the Chief Minister said that he may broach the issue of ministerial expansion with the party high command again.

Sources in the BJP State unit maintained that party national president J.P. Nadda as well as key strategist Amit Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had got a first-hand political feel of Karnataka as they recently visited the Sate. They would have a clear view on whether to take up ministerial expansion now or put it off indefinitely. Clarity in this regard would emerge during the Chief Minister's Delhi visit, it is hoped.

Those in favour of ministerial expansion, especially the aspirants, insist that it is possible to take up expansion before the impending BBMP polls.

Presently, there are five vacancies in the Basavaraj Bommai-led Ministry that can have a maximum strength of 34 members, including himself.

Quota: Panchamasalis give two more months to govt. to take a decision

Community leader Yatnal and Minister C.C. Patil have talks with Chief Minister

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Panchamasali community, a numerically strong subsect among Lingayats, which had set a deadline of June 27 to the State government to make its stand clear on reservation for them, has extended the deadline by another two months. This comes as a breather to the BJP government

Sources said that Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai sought time to address the demand of Panchamasalis to be added in the 2A reservation category among the backward classes reservation matrix. This could possibly be the last deadline for the government before it could take a decision, they said.

The Panchamasali seer Basava Jayamruthyunjaya Swami had earlier threatened to lay siege to the Chief Minister's residence at Shiggaon in Haveri district, after June 27, if their demand was not met. He had taken out a padayatra from Kudalasangama earlier.

Basava Jayamruthyunjaya Swami

Meeting

The decision came after the community leader and BJP legislator Basannagouda Patil Yatnal met Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai along with Public Works Minister C.C. Patil here on Wednesday. The sources said that a number of leaders met Mr. Patil earlier to discuss the possibility of extending the deadline.

The decision to give time came at a meeting presided over by the Kudalasangama Mutt seer earlier where community leaders cutting across party lines participated. They included BJP MLA Arvind Bellad, former Congress MLAs Vinay Kulkarni and Vijayanand Kashappanavar and other legislators and former legislators from the community.

Shivakumar Meti, Bengaluru city president of the Panchamasali Mahapeetha, said that the movement to press for the 2A category would resume if the government did not meet the demand in two months. "The Chief Minister has assured our delegation that the issue would be resolved in two months," he said.

Greater unity

Sources said that the delay by the government over the 2A status was bringing about greater unity in the community as more people are now joining the movement. "More people in the movement would also mean a political message to the government and other parties," the sources said.

Vijayanand Kashappanavar, former MLA, said they would wait till August 22 and re-launch their movement if their demand was not met. The Chief Minister had sought time because a survey had to be done by the backward classes commission, he added.

Archana Kamath loses legal battle against TTFI

She had questioned decision to not select her for Commonwealth Games

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday dismissed a petition filed by Archana Girish Kamath, a table tennis player questioning the Table Tennis Federation of India's (TTFI) decision of not selecting her for the national women's TT team to represent the country in the ensuing Commonwealth Games 2022 to be held in the United Kingdom.

A Division Bench comprising Justice P.S. Dinesh Kumar and Justice C.M. Poonacha passed the order after the TTFI pointed out that her selection was done based on the existing criteria for selection of women players.

"These are the matters in the domain of expert committee..." the Bench observed while also noticing that Delhi High Court had recently dismissed a petition filed by another woman player.

It was also pointed out to the Bench that the decision on Ms. Kamath's selection was made by the Committee of Administrator (CoA), which was appointed by the Delhi High Court earlier this year after finding serious lapses in the functioning of the erstwhile executive panel of the TTFI, and the CoA is headed by a retired chief justice of a High Court.

Senior advocate Vikram Huilgol, appearing for the TTFI, pointed out to the Bench that the CoA had discussed the recent performances of Ms. Kamath and had recorded its finding that "unfortunately, despite the exercise of the selector's discretionary points in her favour, Archana is still unable to meet the grade... Archana's national rankings are not at a high level..."

It was also pointed out that the criteria, on which Ms. Kamath is relying on for her selection, would come into force only from October 1, 2022 as parents of players and others have given representation for postponement of new criteria.

Mr. Huilgol also pointed out to the Bench that the TTFI had sent the list of five women players, including one reserve player, to the Indian Olympic Association on June 7, much before she filed the petition and the interim order passed by the court on June 16 not to send the list of players.

Denying her claim that her name was initially on the list of players for the CWG-2022 and its was changed arbitrarily, the TTFI made it clear that the final selection was made on June 6 and her name was found only in the list of probables.

Kota for reserving 75% posts in residential schools to Agniveers

State Congress leaders take part in protest in New Delhi against Agnipath

KARNATAKA BUREAU
MANGALURU/BENGALURU

Minister for Social and Backward Classes Welfare Kota Srinivas Poojary said on Wednesday that he would propose to the government to introduce a scheme to reserve 75% of physical education-cum-warden posts in residential schools managed by the two departments to Agniveers.

Kota Srinivas Poojary

The Minister told pressmen in Udupi that the departments managed 826 residential schools in the State.

Qualification issue

Asked how the government can implement the proposal as posts in residential schools of the government require the qualification of post-graduation, while Agniveers may have studied till graduation when they retire from four years of service, the Minister said that "a suitable roster will be adopted". He said he would discuss the implementation aspect of the proposal with senior officials of the departments.

Mr. Poojary reiterated that the Backward Classes Welfare Department would open three Army selection training schools in the three coastal districts this month. Stress would be given during the training to help trainees get selected under the Agnipath scheme.

Protests held

Meanwhile, senior leaders, MLAs, and MLCs of the Karnataka Congress on Wednesday participated in a protest against implementation of the Agnipath scheme at the AICC office in New Delhi.

Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha M. Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah and his counterpart in the Council B.K. Hariprasad, KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar, MLAs, and MLCs of the party participated in the protest along with MP Rahul Gandhi and party's general secretary Priynaka Gandhi Vadra.

Congress leaders at a protest against the Agnipath scheme and also the Enforcement Directorate's action against party leader Rahul Gandhi, in New Delhi on Wednesday.
• SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

AICC general secretary in charge of Karnataka Randeep Singh Surjewala, the former Union Minister P. Chidambaram were among the leaders who participated in the protest urging the Centre to drop the Agnipath scheme.

'Agnipath is an RSS idea'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

The former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy has described the Union government's Agnipath scheme as an idea mooted by the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) to spread its activities in the armed forces.

Speaking in Hassan on Wednesday, Mr. Kumaraswamy said, "Agnipath is an RSS idea. The scheme is being implemented to intrude into the armed forces. The government is following Hitler's rule in India with this idea."

He wanted to know who recommended the scheme to the government.

"Was the scheme recommended by the parliamentary committee on defence? Did the Indian Army suggest such a scheme?" he asked. Mr. Kumaraswamy also questioned what was wrong with the existing system of recruitment.

Referring to BJP leaders' statements on various training that the Agniveers would undergo, Mr. Kumaraswamy asked, "Do you require Agniveer certificates to set up a haircut salon?"

ED harassing Rahul, says Kumaraswamy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
HASSAN

JD(S) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy has alleged that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) is harassing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the name of interrogation.

"Do they have to interrogate him for five days? They must have all documents required with them. They should have completed inquiry within half an hour," he said, speaking in Hassan. "It is obvious to anybody that the intention is political," he added.

He sought to know why there was no investigation into the allegations of "40% commission" demanded for works by BJP leaders and bureaucrats in the State, though there was a formal complaint by the contractors' association.

JD(S) expels two MLAs

They had defied whip during RS polls

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Janata Dal (Secular), which saw two of its MLAs indulging in cross-voting during the recently held Rajya Sabha elections, expelled both the legislators on Wednesday. The party is set to move the process for disqualifying them from their legislature membership.

The expelled legislators are K. Srinivas Gowda, elected from Kolar, and S.R. Srinivas, elected from Gubbi Assembly constituency, who defied the party whip issued ahead of the elections. Both have distanced themselves from the party for some time now. While Mr. Srinivas Gowda gave his first preference vote to Congress candidate Mansoor Ali Khan and second preference vote to BJP's third candidate Lahar Singh Siroya, Mr. Srinivas gave his first preference vote to Mr. Siroya and the second preference vote to Mr. Khan.

Core committee meeting

The decision was announced by JD(S) Legislature Party Deputy Leader Bandeppa Kashempur after he chaired the core committee meeting. The expulsion order, signed by the party's State president C.M. Ibrahim, stated that the action had been taken as per the party's constitution for breach of discipline and the punishment prescribed for it. The action has been taken following the complaint by senior party leader H.D. Revanna, who was the party's election agent.

In the elections held for four Rajya Sabha seats from the State on June 10, the BJP won three and the Congress won one seat while the JD(S) drew blank. Despite numbers not stacking up in his favour, Mr. Siroya defeated the official JD(S) candidate, D. Kupendra Reddy. By not having enough numbers, Mr. Khan lost.

Briefing presspersons after the core committee meeting, Mr. Kashempur said the party had decided to move the disqualification procedure under the anti-defection law with the Assembly Speaker to disqualify both the legislators from the House. "We will be formally lodging a complaint with the Speaker in a day or two."

RBI cancels licence of Millath Coop. Bank

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled the licence of Millath Cooperative Bank Ltd., Davangere, and the bank ceased to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on June 18, 2022.

The Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Karnataka, has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator.

"The bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. As such, it does not comply with the provisions of Section 11(1) and Section 22 (3) (d) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949," said an RBI press release.

The bank had failed to comply with the requirements of various sections of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and the continuance of the bank was prejudicial to the interests of its depositors, the RBI said.

MoUs inked to scale up women-led enterprises

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

The State government on Wednesday signed two memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with the objective of strengthening the economic activities of women self-help groups (SHGs) and facilitating organic farmers to sell their produce directly to consumers.

One was with IIM-B, business management institution, and the other was with Subhiksha, one of the country's first vertically integrated multi-State cooperative society which promotes organic farming.

Access to resources

On behalf of the government, Sanjeevini-KSRLPS (Karnataka State Rural Livelihood Promotion Society), the nodal agency for implementing national flagship programmes such the National Rural Livelihood Mission and the National Rural Economic Transformation Programme, exchanged MoUs with the institutions, in the presence of Minister for Higher Education C.N. Ashwath Narayan. He said that IIM-B's incubator for women SHGs will be a platform that would help women entrepreneurs get access to resources.

The aim of the initiative was to scale up at least 100-150 existing women-owned/women-led enterprises in the State.

Direct linkage

About the MoU with Subhiksha, the Minister said it would create a direct linkage with the consumers through the online marketing platform Subhiksha Farmers to Consumers app. He further said it would fetch 73% of the maximum retail price directly to the farmers' accounts.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

8TH ANNIVERSARY

P.SUBRAMANIAN
IRS (Retd)
CUSTOMS & CENTRAL EXCISE
13.11.1922 – 23.06.2014
Vinnamangalam, Thanjavur – 613 007
"The Values you Taught... Continue to Guide us"
Children

DEATH

H R PANDURANG
24.06.1931 - 19.06.2022
(Ex-L&T)
Mourned by his wife Malathi and his children and their spouses Ravishankar & Sandhya, Ambika & Chandrasekar and Grandchildren Shambhavi, Vishwanath, Advaith.
Ph: +91 98404 26800

District Urban Development Cell, Ballari.

No: DUDC/B/MAN/4/Kampli & Kurugodu/1/2021-22 Date:21.06.2022

"TENDER NOTIFICATION"

The Deputy commissioner, Ballari District Invites tenders in two cover system using standard tender documents from **Eligible** contractors for The **Chief Ministeres Amruth NAGAROTHANA (Municipality) Phase 04 Project in Town Municipal Council Kampli & Kurugodu limits in Ballari District** details as below.

Name of the Works & Indent No: 01. Formation of Roads, construction of CC drains at various wards in Kampli Town limits Ballari District under Amruth Nagarothana (Mun) Phase-4 Grant.DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT132819. **Estimate Cost(Rs in Lakhs):** 423.83. **Amount put to tender(Rs in Lakhs):** 377.96. **EMD(in.Rs):** 6,35,745.00

Name of the Works & Indent No: 02. Improvement and Widening of BT Road and Construction of Storm water drain from Main Circle to Ballari Road Mini Vidhanasouda in Kurugodu Town Ballari Dist under Amruth Nagarothana (Mun) Phase-4 Grant DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT132796. **Estimate Cost(Rs in Lakhs):** 405.75. **Amount put to tender(Rs in Lakhs):** 362.21. **EMD(in.Rs):** 6,08,625.00

Interested Contractors shall register on the e-procurement platform to participate in this tender. Contractors can download the tender documents from the e-procurement platform. Tenders shall be submitted electronically & tender processing fee shall also be paid electronically. 1.Last date & time for tender queries / clarifications: **20 .07.2022 at 17.30 Hrs.** 2.Pre Bid Meeting : **04.07.2022 at 11.00 hrs.** 3.Last date and time for receipt of tender technical bids: **22.07.2022 at 16.30 hrs.** 4.Date & time for opening of (technical bids): **26.07.2022 at 11:00 Hrs.** 5.Auto extension of tender schedule : **03 days**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
DIPR/Ballari/185/MCA/2022-23 District Urban Development cell, Ballari.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby informed that my client/s is intending to purchase the schedule property from its owner viz., P. Uma Shankar, S/o M.Pilla Reddy, having their residence at No. 22, 3rd Main, Near Oasis Mall, Ashwini Layout, 'Vivekanagar Post, Bengaluru – 560047, PAN: AEDPS8544N / AADHAAR No: 6871 1713 0852

Any person/s, having any claim over the schedule property either on basis of the missing documents and/or otherwise, may lodge their objections or claims, in writing with all supporting documentary evidence by registered post with regard to such claim with the undersigned, within 07 (seven) days hereof, failing which my client/s will proceed to finalize and conclude the sale transaction on the basis that there are no claims. Any claims lodged thereafter will not be entertained by my client/s:

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing Survey No. 38/3, Katha No:255, assessed at Rs.9.22/-, measuring 2 Acres (excluding 4 guntas 'B' Kharab), situated in Tharalu Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, and bound on the:

East by : Road and Properties bearing Survey Nos.39 and 55;
West by : Property bearing Survey No. 36 and Doddi area;
North by : Property bearing Survey Nos. 38/1, 38/2 and 55;
South by : Property bearing Survey No. 38/4 and Doddi area

N S SATYANARAYANA GUPTA
K S NAYAK, N S RACHANA
N C JANARDHAN, Advocates
Rachana Law Associates
"Lakshmideep", I Floor, No:2980, 17th Cross, Banashankari II Stage, BANGALORE–560 070 Ph : 9731333880
Dt : 22-06-2022

IN BRIEF

Khader's participation at RSS event irks IUML

KOZHIKODE

The Indian Union Muslim League has taken a serious view of its former Legislator K.N.A. Khader participating in an event organised by a RSS-affiliate organisation in Kozhikode. M.K. Muneer, IUML leader, said Khader's presence at the event was against party's principles.

Arrangements in place for Atmakur byelection

NELLORE

The stage is set for the byelection to the Atmakur Assembly seat in Andhra Pradesh to be held on Thursday. Though 14 people are in the fray, the contest is likely to be mainly between YSRCP candidate Mekapati Vikram Reddy and BJP contestant G. Bharat Kumar Yadav. TDP is not contesting.

10 more arrested, remanded in Secunderabad violence case

Police say all of them were Army job aspirants

STAFF REPORTER
HYDERABAD

The Government Railway Police on Wednesday arrested 10 more persons and remanded them in judicial custody in the Secunderabad railway station violence case. Out of 56 accused identified in the violence against the Centre's Agnipath scheme, it arrested 45 persons on Sunday.

All of them were identified as Army job aspirants.

The accused persons, facing 14 charges including attempt to murder, damaging Railway property among others, were produced before the Railway Judicial Magistrate Court at Bhoiguda briefly after medical tests at Gandhi Hospital. They were later remanded in judicial custody at Chanchalguda prison.

Divisional Manager Abhay Kumar Gupta inspecting the damage caused at the Secunderabad station. •FILE PHOTO

According to sources, the latest arrests include at least five admins of the WhatsApp groups that were used to plan and execute the violence on June 17.

Others, arrested based on CCTV footage and technical evidence, were those directly mobilised youth and initiated the arson.

Video clips

Multiple video clips of the Friday violence at Secunderabad railway station shot on cellphone cameras by the accused persons were available on Wednesday.

One of them showed an accused person, reportedly arrested from Adilabad district, along with his friends throwing bricks on a glass elevator and breaking window glasses of A/C coaches.

He was seen setting the rexin berths of one of the coaches of Rajkot-Secunderabad-Darbhanga Express on fire, even as one of his friends questioned: "Why burn and damage so much when you wanted to stop the trains and already did?" The other person was heard saying: "Only then will we get our justice. Four rallies were over and results too not declared."

Meanwhile, the police are exploring the alleged role of defence coaching centre owners and their 'vested interests' in the violence to mount pressure on the government. They are scanning various centres.

Kerala court grants bail to Vijay Babu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOCHI

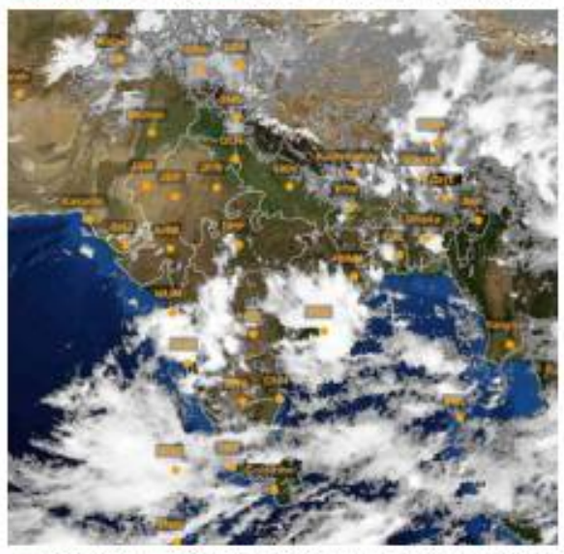
The Kerala High Court on Wednesday granted anticipatory bail to actor-producer Vijay Babu in a rape case filed by an actor.

Justice Bechu Kurian Thomas, while passing the order, directed the actor to surrender before the investigating officer at 9 a.m. on June 27 for interrogation. The actor can be interrogated for the next seven days till July 3 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day, if required. The petitioner shall deem to be under custody during the period. If the investigating officer intended to arrest him, he should be released on bail on his executing a bond for ₹5 lakh.

The actor has been accused of allegedly assaulting a female actor and disclosing the victim's identity through a Facebook live session.

WEATHER WATCH

RAINFALL, TEMPERATURE & AIR QUALITY IN SELECT METROS YESTERDAY



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 16.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Gujarat, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe. Thunderstorm with lightning likely at isolated places over West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Lakshadweep

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	–	33.9	25.6	Kozhikode	4	31.4	24.6
Ahmedabad	3	38.7	26.5	Kurnool	–	33.5	24.7
Aizawl	3	26.0	21.1	Lucknow	4	38.7	26.9
Allahabad	–	40.5	27.6	Madurai	–	37.0	25.0
Bengaluru	0.2	25.6	20.4	Mangaluru	49.2	25.4	22.6
Bhopal	–	–	25.0	Mumbai	16	32.7	25.4
Bhubaneswar	8	34.7	26.2	Mysuru	–	30.4	20.4
Chandigarh	–	35.7	27.0	New Delhi	0.7	37.2	24.3
Chennai	33	34.7	24.0	Patna	2	36.2	25.6
Coimbatore	–	31.2	22.6	Port Blair	4	32.0	25.9
Dehradun	63	33.9	20.3	Puducherry	0.2	34.6	26.4
Gangtok	0.2	23.9	16.8	Pune	–	32.3	23.8
Goa	42	27.0	22.7	Raipur	–	36.4	25.2
Guwahati	–	34.6	25.9	Ranchi	30	33.2	22.3
Hubballi	–	26.0	21.0	Shillong	11	23.6	16.4
Hyderabad	0.2	32.7	24.0	Shimla	–	26.7	18.3
Imphal	2	30.4	22.2	Srinagar	58	17.7	11.0
Jaipur	1	35.8	24.6	Thiruvananthapuram	0.6	32.4	23.7
Kochi	7	31.0	22.0	Tiruchi	–	35.7	26.6
Kohima	9	24.6	16.0	Vijayawada	–	35.4	25.4
Kolkata	28	32.7	25.8	Visakhapatnam	3	31.0	26.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing — **Yesterday**

CITIES	SO2	NO2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	54	40	49	69	133	
Bengaluru	10	–	21	71	70	
Chennai	12	28	44	41	44	
Delhi	20	74	79	128	180	
Hyderabad	15	12	22	83	70	
Kolkata	11	16	18	63	85	
Lucknow	10	47	82	71	96	
Mumbai	60	28	44	24	35	
Pune	106	52	112	73	59	
Visakhapatnam	15	48	28	50	81	

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Pali, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 213 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 20

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Tension in Zaheerabad as farmers demand fair compensation, jobs

Protest over KTR laying foundation stone for a defence unit

R. AVADHANI
HYDERABAD

Tension prevailed in some villages falling under the National Investment and Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) near Zaheerabad town in Telangana on Wednesday when Industries Minister K.T. Rama Rao visited the place to lay foundation stone for a defence manufacturing unit on about 500 acres.

Angry farmers were demanding payment of fair compensation for their lands which were acquired for establishing the NIMZ in Sangareddy district.

The farmers said the foundation stone was being laid without addressing their problems, including higher compensation for their lands and jobs. The farmers said their protest for the past few days had not been addressed.

According to the reports reaching here, the police resorted to lathicharge to control the crowd at Gangwar when the villagers protested and damaged a police vehicle. A woman got injured in the melee and was shifted to hospital.

Several protesters were taken into custody and shifted to different police stations. According to sources, at Jarasangam alone, about 100 farmers were taken into custody. Farmers were arrested when they tried to meet Mr. Rama Rao at his meeting venue.

Police took all the 17 villages under control and farmers were not allowed to go to their farms. Shops were forcibly closed to avoid crowds.

About 1,200 villagers were taken into custody and cases were registered against 30 persons.

Ashok to offer clarifications on new textbooks today

Govt. to reply to objections raised by various sections

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

A day after former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda sought withdrawal of new textbooks prepared by a committee headed by Rohit Chakratirtha, Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai has asked Revenue Minister R. Ashok, the BJP's Vokkaliga face, to release a set of clarifications on Thursday, in an attempt at damage control.

R. Ashok

Mr. Ashok will hold a press conference at the Secretariat at noon on Thursday and is expected to provide all details/clarifications regarding questions raised by the Congress/JD (S) leaders and seers of Vokkaliga and Lingayat communities on the new textbooks. On Wednesday, Mr. Bommai chaired a meeting with Karnataka Primary and Education Department Minister B.C. Nagesh and sought clarifications and explanations on questions/objections raised by Mr. Gowda and other leaders.

Mr. Nagesh told reporters that Mr. Bommai would provide answers on Thursday to Mr. Gowda's objections.

Mr. Nagesh said the government has already said it is "open to revisiting errors, if any" and ruled out withdrawing the new textbooks.

North Karnataka will be a new state, says Minister Umesh Katti

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BELAGAVI

Stoking a controversy again, Minister for Food and Civil Supplies Umesh Katti said in Belagavi on Wednesday that North Karnataka will become a new State one day.

"Either, I will become the Chief Minister of North Karnataka State or my son will fill that position," he said.

The number of States will rise to 50 after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to create 50 States. He will do it after the next elections. Uttar Pradesh will be divided into four States, Maharashtra into three and Karnataka into two States. This is bound to happen, the Minister said.

"There is no charm left in Bengaluru. Traffic congestion is a serious problem there. You need one hour to cover 10 km. I stay close to the Vidhana Soudha there, but I need one-and-a-half hours to go to my office from my house. At times, I feel I can walk to my office," he said. Many areas in Bengaluru suffer from water scarcity. I don't think any IT or BT company will now like to set up office there, he said.

On the other hand, North Karnataka is developing. We have new airports in Belagavi, Hubballi and other towns. We are trying to build a new international airport in Kittur. Belagavi has the Suvarna Soudha and Dharwad the High Court Bench. We are ready to form a North Karnataka State, he said.

Earlier, advocates thanked him for sanctioning the State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission's regional centre in Belagavi.

Government of Karnataka
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PANCHAYAT RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION
BELAGAVI

TENDER INVITED
(E- PROCUREMENT)

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi hereby invited tender from Registered Contractors for the item rates through E Portal. There are total 19 work have been called, Standard of tender documents KW-1, 2, 3 for price of Highest and Lowest Estimated Cost Rs. 75.00 Lakhs and Rs. 10.00 Lakh respectively and also Highest and Lowest EMD has As Per Eprocurement for each work. The last date for submission of any quarries is 24-06-2022 17:28 PM, the last date for submission of tender bid is on 28-06-2022: 17:30 PM. Opening of technical bid is on 30-06-2022: 11-00 AM. and Expected Financial bid will be opened on 30-06-2022 11:30 AM. For any other information/ clarifications please contact the below signed office, and also search internet for E-Portal website **http://e-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
P. R. E. Division, Belagavi

DIPD/BGM/381/2022-23

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No:506/BGM/SEE/Tr.(W&M)/C/EE(O)/AEE-2/22-23/F-50/2427-34 Date: 21.06.2022

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Mode Only)

KPTCL invites bids against this office TENDER INDENT No: **(1)** KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT9298 **(2)** KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT9297 **(3)** KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_ INDENT 9296 and **(4)** KPTCL/2022-23/SS/WORK_INDENT9415 for **(1)** Replacement of 1x10MVA, 110/11kV transformer by 1x20 MVA, 110/11kV transformer at 110kV Bidi sub-station in Khanapur Taluk, Belagavi District. **(2)** Creating 33 kV reference by providing 1x20MVA, 110/33 kV Transformer at 110kV Yadwad sub-station in Gokak Taluk, Belagavi District. **(3)** Replacement of 1x10MVA, 110/11kV transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/11kV transformer at 110kV Ankali sub-station in Chikkodi Taluk, Belagavi District. **(4)** Replacement of 2x10MVA, 110/11kV transformer by 2x20MVA, 110/11kV transformer at 110kV Uchagaon sub-station in Belagavi Taluk, Belagavi District, including supply of equipments / materials, erection, civil works, testing and commissioning on **Partial Turn Key Basis.** coming under the jurisdiction of Superintending Engineer Ele, Transmission (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Belagavi.

The detailed notification regarding the works called through the "E-procurement" mode can be obtained by logging on to E-procurement's website **https://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on **24.06.2022**. Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.)
Tr. (W&M) Circle, KPTCL, Nehru Nagar, Belagavi-590010. Phone: 0831-2950835/2950836

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ತಾಂಡ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಸ್ವಾಮ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ)
ನೆರ್‌ಬಾಗ್, ನಂ.19/4, 2ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ಕ್ವೀನ್ಸ್ ಹ್ಯಾಂ ರೋಡ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-52 ಫೋನ್ ನಂ: 22285561, 62, 63, 65
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: ktdclit@gmail.com ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.banjarathanda.kar.nic.in
ನಂ: ಕತಾಅನಿನಿ/ಸಿಆರ್.IS/ಯೋ.ಸ/ಕ.ತ/2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 22.06.2022

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ತಾಂಡಾ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ರವರಿಂದ ಆರ್ಹ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಿಂದ ಕಾಂಡಾದ ಮಹಿಳೆಯರಿಗಾಗಿ **Artisan Training, Product Design, Branding and Marketing Project Proposal** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ಪರಿತ್ಯಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿಗಳನ್ನು ಅಥವಾ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು, ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ಲಾಟ್‌ಫಾರಂನವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟಿಪ್ಪಣಿ: ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **06.07.2022** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22.07.2022 ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ** ಮತ್ತು ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **25.07.2022 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** & ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **02.08.2022 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.**

ಸಹಿ/– ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು

ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ.
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕಾಇಂ(ಲೋ)ನಿಇ:ಎಇ–2:ಟೆಂಡರ್–21:2022–23 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17.06.2022

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧ್ಯಾದೇಶ 2000 ಹಾಗೂ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಸ್ಪಾಪಕರ್ಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಹಕ್ಕುಮೊಬಗಳ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರು, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಇವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ **ಆರ್ಹ** ಸುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೋಡ್‌ನ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ **ಏಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಮತ್ತು ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಆರ್ಹ ಸುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ www.eproc.Karnataka.gov.in/eportal/index.seam ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆದು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ:– ಇ- ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ– ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ–
ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 5054–04–337–0–01–423 ಸಿಂಧನ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ ಟಿ.ಎಸ್.ಪಿ–
(1) ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಚಿಕ್ಕಜಾಜೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಟೆಕ್ನಿಕ್ ಮಂಗಳಗಳ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ (ಪ.ಇಂ. 152987) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):–100.00**
ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 2059 ಇತರೆ ಸ್ಟುಡಗಳ ದುರಸ್ತಿ/ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ / ಮಳೆಯಿಂದ ಹಾನಿ:–
(2) ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಹೊಳಲ್ಕೆರೆ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ ದುರಸ್ತಿ (ಪ.ಇಂ. 153005) **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):–75.00**
ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತಿವೆ. (1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ವಿವರಗಳು/ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ 27–06–2022 ಸಮಯ 17–30 (2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 28–06–2022 ಸಮಯ 16–00 (3) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 30–06–2022 ಸಮಯ 16–0) (4) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ 02–07–2022 ಸಮಯ 11–00 ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 08194 222446) ಹಾಗೂ ಹೆಚ್.ಪಿ. ಕಂಪನಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 080 25501216 ಮತ್ತು 080 25501227 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಪಿ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂಡಿ. ಚಿತ್ರದುರ್ಗ.

DIPR/CTA/MCA/265/2022-23

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, Chennamanakere Achukattu, BSK 3rd Stage, Near Srikanteshwara Park, Bengaluru-560 085.
No.EE/BG/TEND/05/2022-23 Date: 21-06-2022

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Short Term Tender Notification) (Two Cover System)
(Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

The Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, South Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP/KPWD/Electrical/CPWD/ Railways/MES/National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	DPR COST (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	**Consultancy services for preparation of DPR for the work of Additional Improvements to Office Building Sports Complex adjacent to Kempegowda Playground in Ward No.164, Basavanagudi Constituency. (Package-03).**	14.00	50000.00
2.	**Consultancy services for preparation of DPR for the work of Construction of Multipurpose Buildings and Sports Complex in Ward No.162, Basavanagudi Constituency. (Package-09).**	14.00	50000.00
3.	**Consultancy services for preparation of DPR for the work of Construction of Multipurpose Buildings, Community Centre in Ward No. 162, 164, Basavanagudi Constituency. (Package-10).**	10.00	50000.00

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of the Govt. of Karnataka from **28-06-2022. (2)** Date of Pre bid meeting on **29-06-022 at 4:00 p.m. (3)** Tenders must be submitted online through e-procurement portal **on or before 4:00 p.m. on 06-07-2022** and the opening of tenders will be as per the e-procurement portal guidelines. **(4)** Technical Bids will be opened on **07-07-2022 at 4:30 p.m.** or next working day. Further particulars can be obtained from the above office during working hours on working days or from **website: https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-, Executive Engineer, Basavanagudi Division, BBMP.

HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19? CALL APTHAMITRA ON 14410
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Government of Karnataka
Deputy Commissioner office,
(District Urban Development Cell) Haveri Dist, Haveri-581110 Telephone No : 08375-249097
e-mail : dc_haveri@yahoo.co.in
No:Mun04/CMANSP4/TP-2/2022-23 Date : 20-06-2022

E-Procurement Tender Notification

Inviting Item wise two cover tender is called for the mentioned indent No (1) DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT 132548 (2) DMA/2022-23/OW/WORK_INDENT132450 for TP Rattihalli and Guttal, under 2022-23 Nagarothana Phase 4 works. As per Karnataka Transperency Procurement Port Act 2000, Modification Act 2021

All the terms and conditions As per (KW-4) pertaining to this tender shall be viewed in the Website http://eproc.karnataka.gov.in for further clarifications please contact District Urbon Development Cell Haveri.

DIPR/HVR/MCA/92/2022-23 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, DUDC, Haveri**

Government of Karnataka
(Department of Ports & Inland Water Transport)
Port Office, Karwar
Ph: 08382-221342 Fax: 08382-221528 E-mail: kwrport2016@gmail.com
No.PAS/CR- 129/2017-18 Date: 20.06.2022

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Rates quotations in e-portal are invited by the undersigned from the Suppliers/ Manufacturers / Contractors/ any interested parties who are having similar nature of work / supply experience for the items mentioned below for Procuring, Erecting, Commissioning and Testing for **installation of Firefighting Equipments on line with OISD 156 requirements/ PESO standards for handling class A and B petroleum products at Karwar Port." For the vessels of 50,000 DWT & above for estimation and tender evaluation purpose only.**

Description: EOI No. PIWTD/POK/PAS-129/CR-127/2017-18/EOI-3, **Unit & Qty:** As per Schedule-B of tender documents

For any other information and further details of specification contact website www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in or the undersigned office.
(1) Port Office, Baithkol Karwar-581302 (2) E-mail : kwrport2016@gmail.com (3) Phone & Fax No.: 08382 - 221342 / 221528

Conditions: (1) The rate quotation should be submitted through e-portal only and should upload in e-portal on or before 28-06-2022 at 16.00 hours. (2) The quotations recived through e-portal will be opened on **30.06.2022 at 16-30** hours. The interested offered persons may present at the time of opening. (3) The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or all quotations without giving any reason.

DIPR/KWR/MCA/108/22-23 dt. 21.06.22 **Sd/- Port Officer, Karwar**

(Government of Karnataka)
RURAL WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION DEPARTMENT HASSAN DIVISION HASSAN
Phone No.08172-261640 Email Id:eerdwsd.hsn@gmail.com

TWO COVER SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO: 03/2022-23 (POSTPONED-3) DATED : 21-06-2022

On Behalf of Governor of Karnataka, The Executive Engineer Rural Water Supply & Sanitation Department, Hassan Division, Hassan has invited the tender for the works approved under 2021-22 MVS. The postponed notification for the below said work is as follows. **Two Cover System works Providing MVS for 435 Habitation of Chanarayapatana Taluk, Hassan District** (INDENT No:40273) (General category) The above work tender is invited in Two cover system in e-procurement portal. The tender details are available in www.e-procurement.karnataka.gov.in From 21-05-2022 After 5.30P.m. As per the previous notification Last date for receipt of tenders was Dt: 23.06.2022 before 5-30 P.M. The same as been extended upto Dt:**27.06.2022** before 5-00 P.M Technical bid will open on dated : **29-06-2022** after 11.00 A.M. The Financial bid of the Technically qualified bidder will be open on dated: **01-07-2022** after 11.00A.M. The Executive Engineer has reserved the rights to cancel the tender without giving any reason.

Sd/- Executive Engineer Rural drinking water and sanitation Dept, Hassan division, Hassan.

High office

The Opposition did not use the presidential election to counter the BJP's narrative

The BJP has stolen a march over the Opposition by naming Droupadi Murmu as its candidate for President. With the support of BJP allies and regional parties such as Odisha's BJD and Andhra Pradesh's YSRCP, she is poised to win and become the first from a tribal community to occupy the highest office of the Republic. The significance of her elevation is particularly pronounced in the 75th year of India's independence. A tribal woman succeeding a Dalit in the highest office of the country is a remarkable testimony to the deepening of Indian democracy, notwithstanding the disturbing signs of the mobilisation of subaltern communities for majoritarian politics. Ms. Murmu will be the second woman to hold the highest office, after Pratibha Patil, and at 64, she will be the youngest President in the country's history. From Mayurbhanj in Odisha, part of the region that houses a vast majority of India's aboriginal population, Ms. Murmu was a teacher, and joined the BJP in 1997. She was a Minister in Odisha and the Governor of Jharkhand between 2015 and 2021. Her nomination by the BJP for the highest office of the country signifies the party's sustained efforts to incorporate tribal communities politically and culturally. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's personal signature on the decision is unmistakable and is in line with his relentless efforts to expand the BJP's social base wide and far.

With numbers tilted in the BJP's favour, the Opposition could have only used the contest for the highest office as an opportunity for political messaging. The joint candidate of the Opposition parties, Yashwant Sinha – a former BJP leader and Union Minister in the Janata Dal and BJP governments – hardly serves that purpose. For all his track record, Mr. Sinha hardly represents anything political. That he turned into a strong critic of Mr. Modi after being ignored for positions, if anything, weakens any claim of his candidacy being an ideological counter to the BJP. The lack of imagination, initiative and capacity for any radical politics in the Opposition comes across starkly in the selection of the candidate. While Mr. Modi uses every election as an opportunity to respond to group aspirations of various communities, the Opposition remains adrift and ensconced in cocoons. That Mr. Sinha comes from a tribal State, Jharkhand, makes the optics of this contest even more damaging for the Opposition. The Opposition is right to point out that the BJP did not make any serious effort to field a consensus candidate. But excusing its own limitations by blaming the BJP is self-defeating. This turned out to be yet another missed opportunity for the Opposition to construct a counter narrative to the BJP, which is inclusive in its messaging in instances such as this, while not giving up its pursuit of an exclusivist politics.

No cause for alarm

India must return to COVID-appropriate behaviour

After the third wave driven by the Omicron sub-lineage BA.2 peaked in end-January this year with over 0.33 million cases a day, there has been a small bump in the number of daily cases reported in the first fortnight of June and a slightly bigger increase in the last one week to touch over 13,200 cases on June 17. But the rate of increase has been small and restricted to a few States and some major cities. The rate of growth of active cases has also been low. While the sub-lineage BA.2 is still the dominant strain in India, BA.4 and BA.5 seem to be causing the new cases. The small increase in testing in the past week could be a reason for the more cases reported. The seven-day average test positivity rate doubled from less than 1% in early June to over 2% by mid-June and has been increasing incrementally since then to 2.7% on June 20. Increasing the number of daily tests will result in more cases being detected. But with a large percentage of the adult population fully vaccinated and a sizable percentage also infected, the focus should be more on hospitalisations and deaths and not daily infections. There has been a slight increase in hospitalisation in a few States, but there is no cause for alarm. However, there has not been any increase in daily deaths. The small bump in daily cases seen in a few States for the last three weeks therefore does not appear to mark the beginning of a new wave.

That said, the BA.4 and BA.5 sub-lineages are fast spreading to more countries in Europe with a concomitant increase in cases. The BA.5 sub-lineage has become dominant in Portugal leading to a surge in daily infections, hospitalisations and even deaths despite very high primary and booster dose vaccination coverage; the reasons for increased deaths are not known. With both BA.4 and BA.5 endowed with greater transmissibility and higher immune escape from vaccination and earlier infection, including of the BA.1 and BA.2 Omicron sub-lineages, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control designated them as variants of concern in mid-May; WHO too has given the same designation. On June 13, the ECDC cautioned that these sub-lineages will become dominant throughout Europe leading to increased daily cases. However, it notes that based on limited data, the two sub-lineages do not appear to be associated with increased disease severity compared with the BA.1 and BA.2 Omicron sub-variants. Given the greater transmissibility of BA.4 and BA.5 and immune escape, the sub-lineages may become dominant in India too, especially as COVID-appropriate behaviour is now poor. While the two sub-lineages may not lead to increased deaths, the risk of long-term complications even among the young and healthy when infected cannot be overlooked. Masks must be made mandatory, especially in public and closed spaces with poor ventilation.

The role of caste in economic transformation

The divergent outcomes in structural transformation in the global South, i.e., India, China and S.E. Asia, are illustrative

KALAIYARASAN A.

India has been in a phase of jobless growth for at least two decades now, coupled with rising poverty and discontent in rural areas. The ongoing protests against the Agnipath programme, agitations against farm laws a year before, and agitation for reservation by agriculture castes are all arguably an outcome simmering discontent due to this jobless economic growth. Why could India not generate a pattern of growth that produces jobs and inclusive development in the way most of the East Asian countries have done? Caste, which is mostly confined to politics, could be among the answers, a structural factor that impedes economic transformation in India.

Indeed, there is a link between economic transformation and caste in India, which is often missed by academics. In contemporary literature too, caste enters as a post-facto category in understanding inequalities in economic and social outcomes when the fact is that caste is central to economic transformation itself. Caste through its rigid social control and networks facilitates economic mobility for some and erects barriers for others by mounting disadvantages on them. Caste also shapes the ownership pattern of land and capital and simultaneously regulates access to political, social, and economic capital too.

Ways it impedes

There are three ways in which caste impedes the economic transformation in India: ownership and land inequality related to productivity failure within the farm sector; elite bias in higher education and historical neglect of mass education, and caste-based entry barriers and exclusive networks in the modern sector.

If Arthur Lewis, a Nobel Prize winner for development economics, emphasised accumulation of physical capital for economic transformation in the developing world, Theodore William Schultz, an American economist who shared the prize with him the same year in 1979, underscored the need for human capital for better transition to modern sectors. For him, an educated workforce enhances productivity while entrepreneurship ability is increased through education, training, experience and so on.

Hence, the divergent outcomes in structural transformation between countries in the global South, particularly India, China and South East Asia, is due to these three factors. All the nations which succeeded in achieving inclusive growth in the Global South had land reforms combined with human capital, invested in infrastructure by promoting capitalism from below and began industrialisation in the rural sector. Only India lost on all three counts.

Land ownership, productivity

India has one of the highest land inequalities in the world today. Unequal distribution of land was perpetuated by British colonial intervention that legalised a traditional disparity. Some castes were assigned land ownership at the expense of others by the British for its administrative practices. The British inscribed caste in land governance categories and procedures that still underpin post-colonial land ownership pattern in India. They made an artificial distinction between proper cultivators who belong to certain castes and those labourers – lower caste subjects who cultivated granted/gifted lands (Panchami, etc.) that have institutionalised caste within the land revenue bureaucracy. The prescribed categories and practices have entrenched caste

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inequality in land ownership. Even the subsequent land reform that took place after India's independence largely excluded Dalits and lower castes. It emboldened and empowered mainly intermediate castes at the expense of others in rural India.

Even the Green Revolution that brought changes in the farm sector did not alter land inequality as it was mostly achieved through technological intervention. Though India has certainly seen surplus food production since then, the castes that were associated with this land pattern and benefited from the Green Revolution tightened their social control over others in rural India. Land still defines social status and pride in many parts of rural India.

While land has lost its productive capacity since the 1990s, thanks to the real estate and construction turn in the Indian economy, it still works as a source of inheritance, family lineage and speculative capital. In that sense, the economic reforms of the 1990s were a watershed moment. The farm lobby lost its power. Even those who made surplus in farm sectors could not transform their status from cultivators to capitalist entrepreneurs in the modern sectors, except a few castes in western and southern India. Those castes that had a stake in agriculture did not benefit from the economic reforms for two reasons – historical neglect of education and the entry barriers erected by the upper castes in modern sectors. The recent agitations by the Jats in Haryana and Punjab, the Marathas in Maharashtra and the Patels in Gujarat, demanding, among other things, reservation for their castes in higher education and formal jobs exemplify this new trend.

Neglect of education

If strong growth in productivity within the farm sector is crucial for sustained economic growth, an educated workforce is equally necessary to move to the modern sectors. India failed on both accounts. The Indian education system has been suffering from an elite bias since colonial times. British colonialists educated tiny groups of elites, largely from upper castes, for their own administrative purpose.

As political scientist Myron Weiner had argued, India suffered from caste bias in education. Although the Indian Constitution guaranteed free and compulsory education under its directive principles, it was hardly translated into practice. Instead, attention was given to higher education for the elites. Hence, inequality in access to education got translated into inequality in other economic domains including wage differentials in India. Indian elites in fact sustained their position at the top by denying education to a substantial proportion of the population till positive-discrimination policies were implemented in higher education. India's turn toward service growth – particularly its claims of emerging as a leader in software development and a natural inheritor of soft power – is arguably an outcome of this historic elite bias in education.

In contrast, Chinese and other East Asian countries invested in basic education and gradually shifted towards higher education. Their success in manufacturing is a direct outcome of the investment in human capital. One can find such trends even in the contemporary global labour market mirroring this skill spectrum; as South East Asia and China captured low-end manufacturing jobs, India largely concentrated in high-end technology jobs. China taking over India in manufacturing is due to this neglect in human capital formation. Here, a comparison with China is illustrative. Yasheng Huang, a Chinese economist, argues that rural entrepreneurship was able to grow out of the traditional agricultural sector on a massive scale. Rural India, in contrast, hampered by a poor endowment of human capital, could not start entrepreneurial ventures even remotely on the scale of the Chinese.

Barrier to entrepreneurship

India did not witness such capitalism from below except in a few cases. Caste shaped policy outcomes, including India's highly unequal land reform and lack of public provision of education and health, which in turn erected barriers to economic diversification. Caste also worked in building social networks. Castes that were already in control of trading and industrial spaces resisted the entry of others. Even those who had economic surplus in farm sectors could not invest in non-farm modern sectors. Social inequalities have mounted barriers for economic transition. Agrarian capital could not move into modern sectors due to these roadblocks. Even the relative success in South India is being attributed to the 'Vaishya vacuum' – an absence of traditional merchant castes. In contrast such a transition took place in South East Asia, where diversification into urban enterprises by agrarian capitalists was possible.

Truncated transformation is partly an outcome of this interface between caste and economy. For caste is not a residual variable, but is an active agent which stifles economic transformation.

Kalaiyarasan A. is an Assistant Professor at the Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), India and a non-resident fellow at the Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University

Heal the nation before healing the rest of the world

Political or geopolitical expediency or cultural chauvinism should not be allowed to undercut India's health interests

SOHAM D. BHADURI

Bolstering health human resources has been a prime focus of many of the Union government's recent initiatives and policy pronouncements. The Union health Budget 2022 made handsome appropriations for the same, much in line with the Fifteenth Finance Commission's recommendations which laid a conspicuous emphasis on utilising existing capacities at the district and sub-district levels to train different cadres of health-care personnel. Much to the ecstasy of public health advocates, the Health Ministry recently released a set of implementation guidelines for a long over-due Indian public health cadre.

A more recent announcement, however, raises concerns over the coherence of India's vision with respect to health human resources. The Centre under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission and the "Heal by India" initiative is reportedly developing an exhaustive online repository of all categories of health-care professionals in the country. Though such an innovation is much needed because of the currently fragmented nature of such data, one of its proposed primary purposes is to aid external stakeholders, viz. foreign employers and patients in finding a right Indian match for their respective needs. It is an atavistic return to the widely shunned principles of liberalisation in health care, which is not only gratuitous today but also menacing.

WHO forecast for India

The concerns are legitimised by the current estimates and future projections of health manpower in the country, which paint a not-so-salutary picture. A World Health Organization (WHO) 2020 report projected a requirement of nearly two million more doctors and nursing professionals for India in order to attain the minimum threshold ratio of health-care professionals to the population.

As per a study by WHO and the Public Health Foundation of India, over and above a veritable shortage of health-care personnel and their skewed skill-mix across a number of States, their current pace of growth is unlikely to result in any significant improvement in the density or skill-mix of health-care professionals by 2030. Such inadequacies are further compounded by the legions of health-care professionals who remain inactive and outside the labour

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force. In the face of these colossal challenges, the current measure which aims to subtly reinforce medical tourism and worsen the out-migration of health-care professionals from the country is utterly counter-intuitive.

Soft power projection

In the mid-1990s, the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) aimed to create an unprecedented scope for cross-border trade in medical and health-care services. While the health equity implications of this neoliberal offshoot are well known and its central tenets have been widely criticised, health care particularly in the post-COVID-19 era has been a fertile ground for countries to project soft power – at times even at the expense of the nation's own health interests. A crucial distinction must always be drawn between exporting products such as vaccines and that of health-care professionals.

While the first is characterised by a much simpler transactional math, training health-care manpower entails large subsidies (even a fraction of which is hardly recovered through remittances and skill transfers), thus entailing a net drain of resources from the native country.

A similar draw on scarce national health-care resources is laid through medical tourism which is almost always to the detriment of health equity, particularly in developing settings such as India. The magnitude of these could be somewhat attenuated by the use of telemedicine and virtual platforms, though the larger concerns shall persist. While neither medical tourism nor out-migration can or need to be dispensed with in their entirety, to pursue them actively when the country is reeling under acute shortages in an aspirational decade for health care is least warranted.

India needs a registry

It is also hard to justify an immediate need for this measure. While an online health-care professionals repository will certainly aid foreign stakeholders in finding their right choices, there is neither a strong demand-side desperation nor a significant supply-side scarcity preventing a market to function well in its absence. For instance, a recruiter from a developed country willing to hire Indian nurses and remunerate them handsomely will not be hard pressed to find suitable candidates regardless of the assistance rendered by an online repository, and the latter would only be marginally helpful.

Rather, it is at the national and sub-national levels that such an exhaustive and updated registry of health-care professionals is the need of the hour, for addressing the many challenges and disparities in health manpower availability, distribution, and skill mix. This would also come to strongly complement measures such as an integrated public health cadre and the initiatives to train, deploy and retain more local manpower.

In health care, which is characterised by perennially scarce resources and a surfeit of challenges, everything revolves around identifying the priorities right. And no amount of political or geopolitical expediency or cultural chauvinism should be allowed to undercut national health interests. It is time to go all out to address national health-care workforce challenges and heal the nation before embarking on a healing cruise of the world.

Dr. Soham D. Bhaduri is a physician, health policy expert, and chief editor of 'The Indian Practitioner'

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

To read more letters online, scan the QR code

Presidential candidate

The decision made by the ruling NDA government to nominate Droupadi Murmu as its presidential candidate for India's presidential elections in July is laudable. Ms. Murmu represents real empowerment as her journey in life is very inspiring. Despite personal setbacks she dedicated her life to public service. Let us hope that she will do justice to the post.

MEJARI MALLIKARJUNA,
Visakhapatnam

■ It is certainly a smart move and the NDA has stolen a march over the Opposition. Ms. Murmu's background is sure to send a message of pride and hope to Adivasis. On the other hand, the Opposition must blame itself for failing to rise to the occasion.

If Ms. Murmu wins, it is hoped that it does not remain a development of mere optics. It should infuse an urgent sense of direction and spirit in the Government to protect the rights of, and deliver justice to, Adivasis, many of whom are oppressed for trying to defend their constitutional and human rights.

FIROZ AHMAD,
New Delhi

■ With the formal announcement of Ms. Murmu as the candidate of NDA and Yashwant Sinha as the Opposition's candidate, the die has been cast.

The NDA's choice underlines the resolve and commitment of the ruling combine towards the uplift of the weak, the marginalised and the underprivileged. Ms. Murmu's life is an ideal example of hard work and perseverance.

B. SURESH KUMAR,
Coimbatore

Agnipath and message

The message from the Agnipath saga is that India's youth must begin to look at self-employment in a serious way rather than don the cap of a job seeker and be subjected to shocks.

Equipping our youth with the necessary skills in a vocation of their choice will help them get self-employed and with dignity. There are many programmes offered by governments to also enable them to seek loans through banks. What is needed is ending the absence of information as well as pulling down bureaucratic hurdles so that they are able to avail the benefits of programmes.

Longer loan repayment periods at soft interest rates will help their small projects to become viable. In the absence of any big push for employment generation in the private as well as in the public sectors, self-employment should be encouraged by all means.

BRIJ BHUSHAN GOYAL,
Ludhiana, Punjab

■ It has been interesting to read some of the readers' letters (Letters to the Editor) on the Agnipath scheme. The more pertinent question to ask is: why spend a king's ransom in constructing another Parliament house or pander to the comforts of top bureaucrats and Ministers? The Government could have ensured the welfare of committed and patriotic young people.

Taking care of our military personnel does not begin and end with patriotic films and songs. There needs to be a budgetary rethink and solutions to supporting their welfare.

SOMDATTA GOSWAMI,
Bengaluru

Chennai rains

A spell of rain in Chennai has resulted in stagnation of water on many roads. Rain harvesting points are filled with dust or stones while storm water drain networks are filled with water. Has the city administration forgotten the flooding of 2015? Will the city be ready for the northeast monsoon?

K. PRADEEP,
Chennai

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS:

In the report headlined "Youth join Army not just for the money" (June 22, 2022), the opening paragraph erroneously said "those who join the armed forces are there *just for* the money." It should have been *not just for* the money.

It is the policy of The Hindu to correct significant errors as soon as possible. Please specify the edition (place of publication), date and page. The Readers' Editor's office can be contacted by Telephone: +91-44-28418297/28576300 (11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday); Fax: +91-44-28552963; E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in; Mail: Readers' Editor, The Hindu, Kasturi Buildings, 859 & 860 Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002, India. All communication must carry the full postal address and telephone number. No personal visits. The Terms of Reference for the Readers' Editor are on www.thehindu.com

Towards a single low tax regime

The Finance Minister should do away with all the confusing tax slabs in one fell swoop

G.R. GOPINATH

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

In December 2018, the late Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, announced that the 28% GST slab, which he called the "dying slab", would be phased out, except for luxury items. India, he said, would eventually have just two slabs: 5% and a standard rate between 12% and 18% (apart from exempt items). Tragically, he passed away less than a year before fulfilling his assurances.

Simplicity is not easy to achieve. Great sages, artists and designers have preached simplicity. It was the mantra of Henry David Thoreau, who influenced Mahatma Gandhi.

The introduction of a uniform GST was a watershed moment in India since the country's earlier regime of taxes and cesses, both at the Centre and the States, was a big barrier to free trade and economic growth and was a cesspool of corruption.

Complex and confusing

However, GST is still a complicated tax regime with different slabs. It is not easy to comprehend or comply with, and is open to interpretation, harassment and avoidable litigation. To simplify it, Finance Ministry officials must be reminded of KISS.

KISS (Keep It Simple, Stupid) is a well-known acronym and an accepted credo in business. Attributed to Lockheed aircraft engineer Kelly Johnson, it was meant to urge engineers to keep aircraft design so simple that even a stupid person would be able to repair the aircraft with ordinary tools on the combat field.

Bureaucracy, the world over, is usually oblivious to the KISS principle. An Amazon ad boasts that it sells more than a crore of different products, besides myriad services. More categories are added every day. In this context, asking bureaucrats to identify and categorise all products and services for differential tax slabs in the GST regime is the surest way to get into a muddle.

Empirical data from across the world on the benefits of a unified single tax is incontrovertible. So, an unambiguous directive to the bureaucracy is necessary from the ruling dispensation to come up with just two categories: goods eligible for zero tax and goods that will fall under a single rate, say 10% or 12%. That means everything except those specifically exempt, is taxed.

This needs bold and clear reformist thinking at the political level. Imposing a high GST in some areas does not make sense. 'Sin' taxes, for instance, are at cross purposes with the government's policy of generating growth and creating jobs under 'Make in India'. A typical 300-room five-star hotel generates direct employment for around 500 people of whom 90% are waiters, housekeeping staff, front desk staff, security and concierge staff, besides cooks, financial and clerical staff. There are a host of others employed in associated services such as the spa, gift shops and swimming pool. The hotel also generates indirect employment in ancillary areas: it buys bed linen, furnishings, rugs and carpets, air conditioners, cutlery, electrical fittings and furniture, and consumes enormous quantities of food produce. All these generate jobs and income for farmers, construction contractors, artisans and other manufacturers. Five-star hotels also generate foreign exchange by attracting rich tourists and visitors. So, it's unwise to tax these hotels to death.

Similarly, high taxes on air-conditioners, air conditioned restaurants, chocolates and luxury cars create an economic ripple effect downstream, in a complex web of businesses that have symbiotic relationships. The effect finally reaches down to the bottom of the employment pyramid.

The plan must be to figure out how to rev up the economy by making the rich and upper middle class spend and move more people up the value chain in order that more chocolates and ACs and automobiles are bought by them, instead of designing a tax system that keeps these products out of the new consumer class's reach.

Instead, the current regime is plain confusing. At an Iyengar Bakery, GST on bread is zero, but the vegetable sandwich is in the 5% tax slab, hitting the vegetable grower directly. The GST on buns is zero, but buns with a few raisins fall in the 5% slab. The GST on masala peanuts, murukku and namkeen is 12%. And the GST on cakes and chocolates is 18%. The same lack of logic applies to taxes on wine, rum and beer, which generate large-scale employment and are the backbone of grape and sugarcane farming and the cocoa industry. The ancient art of toddy tapping in villages, a large employment generator and income booster in rural areas, was killed by unthinking politicians and bureaucrats and replaced with Indian-made foreign liquor. Imagine killing the wine industry in France? It would be sacrilege.

In the automobile sector, the GST on electric cars, tractors, cycles, bikes, low-end and luxury cars ranges anywhere from 5% to 50%. The sale of automobiles is the barometer of an economy.

The confusion has given rise to several disputes. ID Fresh Food, for instance, which makes ready-to-eat foods like chapatis, rotis, parotas and sells various types of idli and dosa batter, appealed against a GST ruling of the Authority for Advance Rulings (Karnataka bench). The ruling had called for a distinction between rotis and parotas and had subjected parotas to a higher GST rate of 18% since the food item did not fall under the category of "khakhra, plain chapati, or roti" (which fall under the 5% slab) and needed to be processed or heated for further consumption. Can a country aspire to be a $5 trillion economy if its taxmen turn gourmet chefs and get bogged down by researching the differences between various kinds of food items prepared with dough?

Then there are items that are exempt from GST. Petrol, diesel, aviation turbine fuel are not under the purview of GST, but come under Central excise and State taxes. Central excise duties and varying State taxes contribute over 50% of the retail price of petrol and diesel, probably the highest in the world barring banana republics. There is distrust between the States and the Centre on revenue sharing. There is also anger at the Centre for riding roughshod over the States' autonomy and disregarding the federal structure of the Constitution. Opposition-ruled States point fingers at Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who ironically accused the United Progressive Alliance regime of trampling on the rights of the States while he was Gujarat Chief Minister.

Use the KISS principle

The low-cost airline model is successful because of the KISS principle. All the frills such as food, freebies and assigned seats are dispensed with. Single class seating, point-to-point travel with no code sharing, direct Internet booking, no middlemen. etc. have sustained this model. It's an Udupi self-service hotel in the sky.

The Finance Minister should take a cue from the Prime Minister, who hinted at major reforms in the aftermath of COVID-19, and do away with all the confusing tax slabs in one fell swoop. She can then usher in a truly single low tax regime along with a list of exempt items. That will ensure compliance, widen the tax net, improve ease of doing business, boost the economy, create jobs, increase tax collections and reduce corruption as witnessed in many countries – a move that will be both populist and well-regarded by economists.

G.R. Gopinath is the founder of Air Deccan

Crypto came tumbling after

As crypto assets are digital assets, the rate of return is sensitive to changes in the global liquidity conditions

PARAG WAKNIS

The precipitous downturn of the crypto market has brought cryptocurrencies back in the news. People wonder if this is the end of the crypto boom. The answer is 'no'. Cryptocurrency is not really a currency. It is an asset that allows people to keep their money outside the formal financial system and make it accessible so that it can be used anywhere in the world. In today's world, such an asset would be in great demand until some other asset innovation allows owners to achieve this objective in a more efficient way.

Price increases and decreases

Crypto assets like Bitcoin have been subject to wide fluctuations in their prices since their inception. The current downturn is not the first of its kind. There have been similar fluctuations in the past. The phenomenal rise in the price of Bitcoin in recent years has dwarfed the fluctuations in its price in the past. The popularity of Bitcoin is obvious from the price differentials with Ethereum and Litecoin. Most of the fluctuations in the price of Bitcoin are brought about by changes in the demand side as the asset's supply moves very slowly given the enormous cost of mining an additional Bitcoin at this stage.

The rise in the price of crypto assets began at the onset of the pandemic as people with excess funds parked them in crypto assets. This made sense given the lack of investment opportunities on account of the uncertainty arising from lockdowns. As the COVID-19 spread slowed down, people may have wanted to move their funds out of crypto assets and into more lucrative real investment opportunities arising from a recovering economy. This led to the eventual decline in prices. The halt in withdrawal by Celsius especially led to panic among investors as this company is supposed to be one of the biggest crypto lenders.

Notwithstanding the effects of these specific events, we must acknowledge that a crypto asset is only one of the assets in an individual's portfolio. Therefore, changes in the general availability of profitable business opportunities and movement in the prices of other assets will definitely affect the price of crypto assets. Recently, there have been changes in the price of an important class of assets: government bonds issued by the governments of developed countries. Many central banks across the developed world have been raising their policy interest rates to combat rising inflation. For example, the Federal Funds Rate was hovering around zero for most of the pandemic. The Federal Reserve raised it recently leading to a sustained rise in the Federal Funds Rate as well as the three- month Treasury Bill Secondary Market Rate.

Safe assets

Debt raised by developed country governments, especially the U.S. but also by U.K. and Germany, is an important class of assets because these are deemed as safe assets across the world. In an influential paper published in 2017, Ricardo Caballero and Emmanuel Farhi defined a safe asset as a simple debt instrument that is expected to preserve its value during adverse systemic events. As the central banks of these countries raise their policy interest rates, the rate of return is also expected to go up, motivating large institutional investors to buy more of these. Accordingly, these investors would get out of some current investments and use the newly realised liquidity to buy these safe assets.

U.S. government bonds form a large fraction of safe asset portfolios, such as the portfolios of many central banks including that of India. The world over, demand for safe assets has increased as many developing countries have grown fast and accumulated enormous foreign exchange reserves. These countries then demanded USD-denominated assets to preserve the value of their portfolios. Events like the pandemic only increased the demand further for safe assets. Unfortunately, the supply of safe assets has not kept up with this demand as the developed countries that produce these assets have grown at a much slower rate. Given that there is generally a shortage of safe assets, it is likely that the demand and prices of crypto assets will change frequently as institutions look for alternatives with slight movements in the rate of return on safe assets. For example, Celsius reportedly could not raise additional liquidity because of tightening of interest rates leading to suspension of its operations.

Overall, investors must understand the nature of crypto assets and their demand and not ignore the interconnectedness of financial markets at the global level. As crypto assets are digital assets that can be mined and transacted from anywhere in the world, the rate of return of crypto assets is more sensitive to changes in the global liquidity conditions than to local conditions.

Parag Waknis is Dean, International Affairs and Associate Professor of Economics, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University Delhi

STATE OF PLAY

Making inroads into Telangana

The BJP has started making efforts to expand its influence in the State before the 2023 elections

V. GEETANATH

When Prime Minister Narendra Modi invited BJP corporators of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) to New Delhi for an informal meeting this month, he sent out two messages. The first was to show that the BJP is a party which gives importance to grassroots leaders and that these leaders have access to the top leadership, in sharp contrast to the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS) where Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao's official residence-cum-office is out of bounds for even his own ministers. The second was that the top leadership is serious about the 2023 Assembly elections in Telangana where it expects to mount a serious challenge to the TRS. After Karnataka and Puducherry, the BJP sees Telangana as the next best bet for its expansion in the south.

The party created history two years ago when it won as many as 48 seats (from just four in 2016) in the 150-member GHMC civic body. In the Assembly elections of 2018, Raja Singh from Goshamahal was the only BJP candidate to win a seat, but in the 2019 general elections, the party performed well. In Nizamabad, the BJP's D. Aravind defeated Mr. Rao's daughter Kavitha. In, Secunderabad, which is a BJP stronghold, Union Minister for Tourism, Culture and Northeast Development G. Kishan Reddy won. Bandi Sanjay Kumar, who was then official spokesperson of the party and is now BJP State president, won in Karimnagar. The party also won Adilabad unexpectedly. Later, it won won two Assembly bypolls – Dubbaka and Huzurabad – decisively by fielding M. Raghunandan Rao and Eatala Rajender, who were earlier with the TRS.

Since these victories, Mr. Kumar has been going hammer and tongs against the Rao regime, egged on by the top leadership. Mr. Kumar launched a Praja Sangrama Yatra (walkathon) over two phases to fight what the party terms "corruption and misgovernance of the TRS government". In the two phases of the yatra, BJP leaders have covered different districts. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, national BJP president J.P. Nadda and other senior leaders have participated in the yatra, using the opportunity to launch a no-holds-barred attack against the TRS government. Mr. Kumar has been playing the communal card, hitting out at the TRS-Majlis Party friendship. Prime Minister Narendra Modi too accused the regime for its "dynastic and corrupt" rule when he addressed party-persons at the Begumpet airport during a recent visit. He claimed that the people of Telangana are ready for political change and that the situation was ideal for the BJP to assume power in the next elections. Besides this, the party has also sent a former State BJP president and former MLA K. Laxman to the Rajya Sabha from Uttar Pradesh, indicating the importance it was giving to Telangana leaders.

The BJP will get another chance to project its strength in the State when the national executive meets in July in the first week in Hyderabad. Top leaders including Mr. Modi, Mr. Shah, the Chief Ministers of all the BJP-ruled States and senior leaders are expected to attend the meeting. This will be the first physical meeting of BJP's key decision-making body outside the national capital after a gap of five years.

It is clear that the BJP, having had pockets of influence till now in Telangana, expects to do better in the next elections and is taking various initiatives to achieve this. But this is no easy task considering that the Congress has a sizeable support base and the TRS is no pushover even if its popularity may have taken a few knocks in recent times. The challenge for the BJP is to build a grassroots cadre across the State and identify winning candidates to face the stiff challenge from the TRS and the Congress.

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DATA POINT

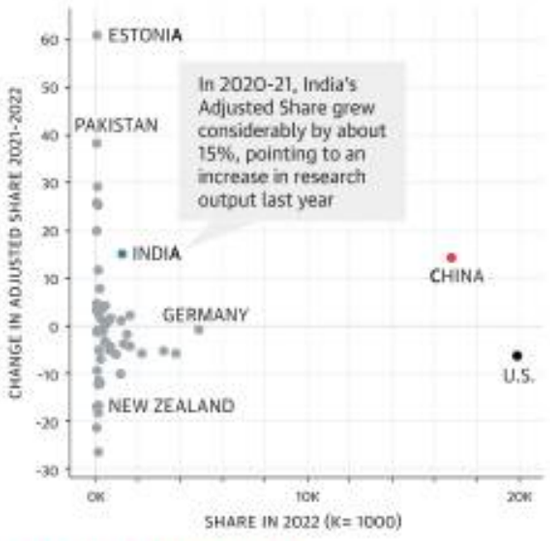
China's research output surged in 2021: Report

Research outputs from China surged last year, **Nature.com** said in a report released last week. This means that investment in research in the country paid off. The scientific journal measures research output based on Share and Adjusted Share. A Share is a fractional count allocated to an institution or country for an article that takes into account the share of authors from that institution or country and the number of affiliated institutions that contributed. When we compare data over time, Share values are adjusted to account for the small annual variations in the number of articles in Nature Index journals. This % change is denoted by the Adjusted Share. China's Share was next only to the U.S. and its Adjusted Share surged in 2021

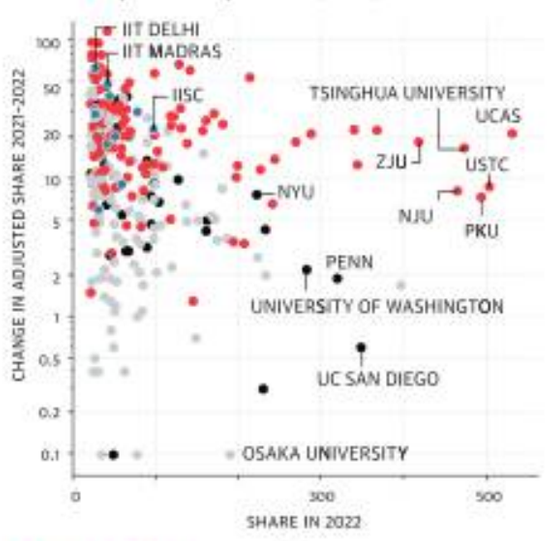
ILLUSTRATION: MU. AJAY KRISHNA

INDIA CHINA U.S. OTHERS

1. AMONG COUNTRIES | The chart shows the Share (2022) and Adjusted Share (2021-2022) of countries. China's Share was 13 times that of India

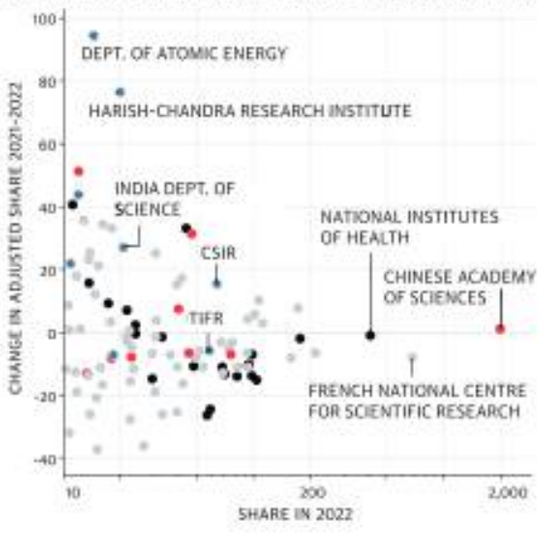


2. AMONG ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS | The top six institutions with the most research outputs are in China. The Indian Institute of Science ranked first among Indian schools. It's research output was 5.5 times lower than that of the University of Academy Sciences (UCAS) in China

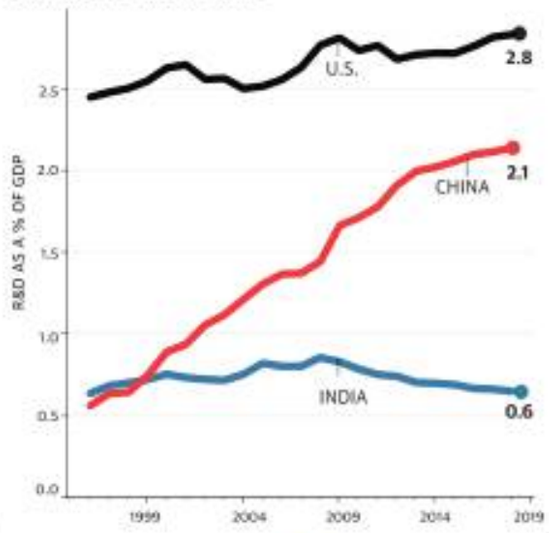


3. AMONG GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS

The chart shows the Share (2022) and Adjusted Share (2021-2022) of government institutions. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) ranked first among Indian schools. It had a research output that was 6.4 times lower than that of the National Institute of Health in the U.S.



4. RESEARCH FUNDING | The chart shows a country's R&D spending as a share of its GDP. According to Nature.com, China's strong and consistent spending on R&D is what resulted in a strong showing in the Nature Index. India's R&D spending is relatively low and has also been consistently declining over the last decade



The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 23, 1972

France to ignore protests

Paris, June 22: Despite protests from nations in many parts of the world, France intends to go ahead with its nuclear tests in the South Pacific. The explosions could come at any time. Notices have been distributed and radio broadcasts in the area give frequent reminders, that ships should steer clear of the Mururoa Atoll, the test area, starting from midnight on June 20. Presumably, officials now are awaiting only favourable weather conditions for the first experiment. Australia, New Zealand, Peru and Japan have protested against the tests at the Geneva Disarmament Conference. The Canadian and Ethiopian delegates said they were associating themselves with the protests. Meanwhile the French Government yesterday formally denied that any danger existed to the populations or environment of the southern hemisphere from its above-ground nuclear test programme in the Pacific. Government spokesman Jean-Philippe Lecat said the French Cabinet yesterday discussed the test series. Mr. Lecat told newsmen that the Foreign Minister Maurice Schumann reported to the Cabinet on the reaction to the programme. Mr. Lecat said, "Precuations have been taken which are superior to those which have been taken by nations which carried out, or are still carrying out, atmospheric experiments. They are superior also to the precautions taken by those who continue to carry out underground tests."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 23, 1922

Re-making of Europe

Sir Fredrick Whyte delivered last night an interesting lecture on the "Remaking of Europe". After giving an account of Europe immediately before the war in 1914 Sir Fredrick Whyte said that the shock of the war resulted in the disintegration of two great states, Russia and Austria-Hungary which politically were in a state of unstability when the two countries entered the great war. The stable states like Great Britain, France, Germany and Italy had survived the great shock. While all nations had in common economic difficulties awaiting solution, the real problem of remaking of Europe was the remaking of Russia and the Little Entente which had sprung upon the ruins of the Empire of Austria-Hungary. The solution lay in politicians understanding the unity of civilisation as some thing above old conceptions of national sovereignty and taking to the problem of reconstruction through an international organisation like the League of Nations.

FROM PAGE ONE

Uddhav fights to keep control over Shiv Sena

After Mr. Thackeray's speech, Mr. Shinde tweeted with the hashtag #HindutvaForever: "While allies were getting stronger, Sena workers and Sena was systematically damaged. It is extremely important to quit from this unnatural alliance to save party and workers. It is important to take the decision now."

The exodus from the Shiv Sena continued on Wednesday as Minister Gulabrao Patil and young MLA Yogesh Kadam, too, headed for Guwahati, while another MLA Dipak Kesarkar, said that the Sena should join hands with the BJP.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Shinde and his loyalists moved to Guwahati, from where he challenged the authority of a letter issued by Sunil Prabhu, Shiv Sena's chief whip and Mr. Thackeray's loyalist, in which he asked rebel MLAs to attend a meeting of party MLAs on Wednesday evening. Mr. Prabhu, in his letter, warned that the absence of an MLA would be considered as his voluntary decision to quit the party's membership and he would face action under the sections to disqualify him.

The rebel group, however, challenged Mr. Prabhu's authority and appointed Bharat Gogawale as the party's new chief whip. In the letter, Shinde group claimed that the party cadres were dissatisfied for aligning with ideologically opposed parties like the Congress and NCP despite having fought the 2019 election in alliance with the BJP.

While passing the resolution, the signatories to the letter said that they had been subjected to lot of criticism for being part of "this corrupt Maharashtra government". They reiterated that their leader Balasaheb Thackeray's ideology was to provide a clean and honest government without compromising on the principles of Hindutva.

Sena legislator 'escapes' from Shinde camp

The MLA, whose wife had earlier filed a 'missing' complaint with the Akola police, claimed that a number of MLAs with Mr. Shinde wanted to return to Maharashtra, implying they had been spirited away to Surat under duress.

The MLA from Balapur constituency in Akola district (in the Vidarbha region) said his dramatic return to Maharashtra from Guwahati was akin to "Shivaji's escape from Aurangzeb's clutches in Agra".

"Despite the fact that I am in good health, I was taken to a government hospital in Surat on Tuesday. Then, I saw that the police and the doctors were talking something among themselves. I suspected they were trying to harm me. I told the doctor that I have no ailment. He claimed I had a heart attack though my blood pressure remained normal. Then, 15-20 persons caught me and thrust a needle in me," said Mr. Deshmukh.

Lambasting the BJP and the Gujarat police, he said Prakash Abitkar, MLA from Kolhapur, had apparently tried to leave Surat, but was caught by the Gujarat police and forced to turn back.

"I am leaving for Mumbai to discuss this entire matter with the Chief Minister and then decide on the future course of action," he said. Given Mr. Shinde's claims that a majority of the Sena's legislators were with him, Mr. Deshmukh pointedly said that he was "Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sainik".

Refusing to divulge how he got to Maharashtra, he simply said that he returned to Nagpur in a chartered plane. He further rejected suggestions that he had signed any resolution form, alleging that his signature and the footage showing him signing were doctored.

Mr. Deshmukh said the BJP was behind all the turmoil, which was wrongly perceived as being Mr. Shinde's handiwork.

$1-trillion scope for digital economy: PM

"To politicise the global economy and turn it into one's tool or weapon, and wilfully impose sanctions by using one's primary position in the international financial and monetary systems will only end up hurting one's own interests as well as those of others, and inflict suffering on everyone," Mr. Xi said.

On Thursday, Mr. Xi will host the BRICS leaders summit, which will be followed by a high-level dialogue on global development on Friday. The summit and dialogue are expected to include leaders from several emerging nations besides the five BRICS countries, with both China and Russia pushing efforts to expand the grouping's membership and influence as a counter to the West.

Addressing the forum, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the BRICS grouping is considering the introduction of an international reserve currency based on the currencies of the BRICS states.

He also said that Moscow will implement the national MIR payment system in more countries to build a sustainable mechanism that will remain unaffected by western sanctions.

Demolitions were lawful, U.P. government tells SC

Uttar Pradesh said the rioters were already being dealt with under separate laws such as the U.P. Gangster Act, Prevention of Public Property Damages Act, U.P. Recovery of Damages to Public and Private Property Act, Code of Criminal Procedure and the Indian Penal Code.

Dealing separately with the demolitions in Kanpur, the State explained that the structures were illegal and non-compliant constructions. Proceedings against them were initiated long before the rioting in June 2022. Proceedings in one of the two cases dated back to August 2020, and the other, began in February 2022. It said that in these cases, the builder and the owner had admitted to them being illegal constructions.

On the razing down of the house of Javed Mohammed in Prayagraj on June 12, the affidavit said the building was without sanction. It was unauthorisedly used as an office and the proceedings had started prior to rioting.

On June 16, the Supreme Court had told the Uttar Pradesh government that demolitions can happen only in accordance with the provisions of the law and cannot be retaliatory.

Neither scared nor threatened: Rahul

Congress leader says every worker, every leader of the party was present in the interrogation room

SANDEEP PHUKAN
NEW DELHI

In his first comments after five days of questioning by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in a money laundering case, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi said a leader who fights for the truth is neither scared nor threatened.

He made these remarks at an event organised by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) on Wednesday at its headquarters, where party leaders from across the country gathered to express their support and solidarity.

Using it as a platform to address the youth who are protesting against the Agnipath scheme, Mr. Gandhi said the Modi government was weakening the armed forces, and the new recruitment scheme had now made it "No Rank No Pension" from the promise of "One Rank One Pension". Like the farm laws, he said, the Modi government would have to withdraw the new recruitment scheme too.

> The government has taken away the last path open to them to express their patriotism by joining the armed forces. I can say this with guarantee, that when you go home after serving the Army, you won't get any employment
> RAHUL GANDHI
> Congress leader

Party workers' support

Mr. Gandhi, who has been questioned for more than 50 hours over five days, shared his experience of ED's questioning with his party colleagues. He said ED officers, three of them who grilled him in a 12 feet by 12 feet room, wanted to know why he did not get tired despite long hours of questioning.

"I would mostly be sitting in my chair, even though the officers would keep going out. Perhaps, they had to take instructions from their seniors. So, when they asked me for my secret, I told them that's because I do *Vipassana* meditation."

Mr. Gandhi said the real reason, though, was the support of lakhs of party workers. "In that room, Rahul Gandhi wasn't alone. Every worker, every leader of the party was present in the room. Every person who is fighting this government without fear was seated there. You can tire one person, but you can't tire crores of Congress leaders and workers," said Mr. Gandhi.

"The ED officers also understood that Congress leaders cannot be threatened or oppressed because they fight for the truth... Truth never gets tired, even though lies do," he added.

'Symbols of patriotism'

The former Congress chief said his problems with the ED were far less important than the employment situation for lakhs of youth. "The government has taken away the last path open to them to express their patriotism by joining the armed forces".

"I can say this with guarantee, that when you go home after serving the Army, you won't get any employment," he said.

Urging his party colleagues to take up their cause, Mr. Gandhi said, "Forget the ED, these youth, who run every morning from 4 a.m., are the symbols of patriotism. It is our duty to protect their future".

Apart from Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chiefs and leaders of the Congress Legislature Party (CLP), MLAs and MPs, several senior leaders were present, including Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, his Chhattisgarh counterpart Bhupesh Baghel, Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, party's leader in the Lok Sabha Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, former Union Ministers P. Chidambaram and Jairam Ramesh and party general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal.

Earlier, Mr. Gehlot told reporters that the country was passing through a very critical juncture and Opposition leaders were being treated as enemies.

Sonia seeks time to appear before ED

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

A day before Congress president Sonia Gandhi was scheduled to appear before the Enforcement Directorate (ED), Ms. Gandhi on Wednesday has written to the agency to seek a postponement for a few weeks to fully recover from COVID-related issues.

The Congress chief had been summoned by the ED for questioning in a money laundering case related to the *National Herald* newspaper on June 23.

New date

The agency is said to have accepted the request and Ms. Gandhi could now been given a date for the third week of July. There is, however, no formal statement from either the investigation agency or the Congress on a fresh date.

"Since she has been strictly advised rest at home following her hospitalisation on account of COVID-19 and lung infection, Congress President Smt. Sonia Gandhi has written to ED today seeking the postponement of her appearance there by a few weeks till she has recovered completely," Jairam Ramesh, Congress's communication chief, had said earlier in a tweet.

Originally summoned to appear before the agency on June 8 in connection with the *National Herald* case, Ms. Gandhi, 75, tested COVID-positive on June 2.

Though the ED had given June 23 as the new date, she had to be hospitalised on June 12, following an episode of nasal bleeding and an infection in the respiratory tract.

On Monday evening, she was discharged from Sir Gangaram Hospital but has been advised complete rest.

CUET-UG to be held from July 15, says NTA

Over 11 lakh candidates have enrolled

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The first edition of the Common University Entrance Test-Undergraduate (CUET-UG) will be conducted from July 15 to August 10, the National Testing Agency (NTA) announced on Wednesday.

"CUET-UG will be spread over 10 days, starting from July 15. There will be no CUET papers on July 17, 2022 due to the NEET-UG and between July 21 and August 3 due to the JEE (Main) exams," an official notification by NTA said.

Over 11 lakh candidates have registered for the first edition of CUET.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Jagadesh Kumar in March announced that CUET scores, and not Class 12 marks, would be mandatory for admission to 45 central universities, and that the central universities can fix their minimum eligibility criteria.

He had also clarified that students from State Boards would not be at a disadvantage in the undergraduate admission process and the examination would not give a push to the coaching culture. A total of 44 Central universities, 12 State universities, 11 deemed universities, and 19 private universities have applied for participating in the first edition of CUET for UG admissions this year.

NCB files draft charges against Rhea Chakraborty, brother

Prosecution asks the court to charge them in drugs case

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) on Wednesday filed draft charges against actor Rhea Chakraborty, her brother Showik and others before a special court in connection with a drugs case linked to Bollywood star Sushant Singh Rajput's death.

Special public prosecutor Atul Sarpande said the prosecution maintained charges against all the accused as mentioned in the chargesheet filed before the court.

The prosecution has proposed the court to charge Rhea and Showik for consumption of narcotic substances and also for procuring and paying for such substances for deceased actor Sushant. Mr. Sarpande said the court was scheduled to frame charges against all the accused. However, it could not be done as a few of the accused moved discharge applications.

Rhea Chakraborty with her brother Showik. • PTI

The court has said that the charges would be framed only after the discharge pleas are decided, he said. All the accused, including Rhea and Showik, were present before the court on Wednesday.

Special judge V.G. Raghuwanshi, hearing cases pertaining to the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, posted the matter for hearing on July 12.

The CBI is probing the case pertaining to Sushant's death.

BJP accused of hijacking democracy

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid the crisis in the Maharashtra government over the rebellion of a group of Shiv Sena MLAs, political parties such as the Communist Party of India (Marxist) and the Samajwadi Party have blamed the BJP for "hijacking democracy".

CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury urged people to reject the politics of the BJP. "Transporting Maharashtra MLAs to expensive hotels in Gujarat and then Assam by brazenly misusing Central agencies is hijacking democracy," Mr. Yechury said.

Mr. Yechury added that it was high time the Supreme Court heard long-pending matters on electoral bonds. "BJP is perfecting the art of losing elections, but forming governments," he tweeted.

Leader of the Opposition in U.P. and SP president Akhilesh Yadav also expressed similar views. "This is the politics of the hunger for power," he said.

'Complete unity' prevails in Maharashtra, says Kamal Nath

Congress MLAs not for sale, says AICC observer

SHOUMOJIT BANERJEE
PUNE

After Shiv Sena leader Eknath Shinde's intra-party rebellion put the existence of the tripartite Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government in jeopardy, senior Congress leader Kamal Nath on Wednesday stressed there was complete unity within the Maharashtra Congress adding that both his party and the Sharad Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) stood firmly behind Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

"There is complete unity within the Maharashtra Congress. Forty-one of the 44 MLAs were present during my meeting with them. The others are *en route*. I have spoken with Uddhav Thackeray over phone and could not meet him personally as he has tested COVID-19 positive. I have assured him that the Congress will keep supporting the MVA," he said. "I have spoken with Sharad Pawar. He, too, has said that the NCP fully supports the Thackeray government."

Kamal Nath

Mr. Nath, who was on Tuesday appointed All India Congress Committee (AICC) observer in Maharashtra amid the political turmoil plaguing the State, further lashed out at the Bharatiya Janata Party's politics of "bait and money power".

Speaking on Mr. Shinde's rebellion which has rattled the MVA, Mr. Nath said: "Maharashtra is the land of Shivaji Maharaj. I am confident the rebellious Sena MLAs will not taint it."

On reaching Mumbai, Mr. Nath held a meeting with the Congress MLAs and had discussions with NCP chief Sharad Pawar.

Positive message

He said the unity within the Maharashtra Congress would send a positive message in keeping with the country's political culture and the party's principles, while remarking that Congress MLAs were "not for sale".

"I have spoken with Sharad Pawar. He, too, has said that the Nationalist Congress Party fully supports the Thackeray government," Mr. Nath said.

While expressing hope that Uddhav Thackeray would strive to maintain unity within the Sena, Mr. Nath lambasted the BJP, saying its politics of inducement and money power was putting the country's future in grave peril.

An Assam link in the Maharashtra crisis

Sarma flayed for 'shameful indulgence'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, known to have had a hand in making and breaking governments in the northeast, has emerged as a major player in the Maharashtra political crisis.

Soon after Maharashtra MLAs led by Shiv Sena leader and Minister Eknath Shinde were escorted to a luxury hotel in Guwahati on Wednesday morning, the Congress and other Opposition parties slammed Mr. Sarma for "shameful indulgence" in the political crisis in another State when millions were caught in a rain-induced crisis in Assam.

Mr. Shinde and the MLAs, a few of them Independents, flew in from Surat where they had been taken after alleged cross-voting saw the Bharatiya Janata Party win five of the 10 Maharashtra Legislative Council seats.

The Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) won two seats each and the Congress bagged one. The three are allies in the Uddhav Thackeray-led Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA).

Himanta Biswa Sarma

Providing relief

"The Chief Minister of Assam should concentrate on his own job and provide adequate relief and rehabilitation to the flood-affected people in the State. He can do his politicking in happier times," Assam Congress president Bhupen Kumar Borah said.

The Assam Jatiya Parishad (AJP) criticised Mr. Sarma for hosting the Maharashtra MLAs possibly to topple the government there.

"It is sad that Assam has been turned into the epicentre of dissension in Maharashtra in a show of insensitivity to 55 lakh flood-affected people in the State," the regional party said in a statement.

Modi criticised

The AJP also criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for failing to find time to assess the flood-induced devastation in Assam.

That Mr. Sarma had his pulse on the political development in Maharashtra became evident when he oversaw the arrangements for hosting Mr. Shinde and his team ahead of their flight from Surat late on Tuesday. The flight had 89 people on board, including the cabin crew.

The BJP is believed to have given Mr. Sarma responsibilities beyond the northeast in view of his "experience" with handling crises. He had managed to cobble up the numbers for the BJP to form a coalition government in Manipur in 2017.

Mr. Shinde spoke briefly to journalists after landing at the Lokapriya Gopinath Bardoloi Airport. "I don't want to criticise anybody. 40 MLAs are here and we want to carry forward Balasaheb's Hindutva," he said. Balasaheb Thackeray had formed the Sena in June 1966 to fight for the rights of the Maratha people.

OPG Securities owner held in NSE scam

As alleged, broker firm used algorithmic trading software for preferential access

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested Sanjay Gupta, the owner of Delhi-based OPG Securities, in connection with the alleged National Stock Exchange co-location scam.

"The accused had attempted to bribe the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) officials through a syndicate in Mumbai. He also destroyed evidence. During questioning, he was evasive in his replies," said an agency official.

Mr. Gupta was one of the accused persons named in the first information report (FIR) registered by the CBI in May 2018.

As alleged, broker firm OPG Securities was one of the beneficiaries that used an algorithmic trading software to get preferential access to the National Stock Exchange server data during 2010-14, in connivance with some data centre staff members. The then available co-location facility was also abused to gain quicker data access through the exchange's secondary server.

About a month ago, expanding the ambit of the probe, the agency conducted searches on the premises of several suspect stock brokers in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Gandhinagar, Noida and Gurugram.

CBI chargesheet

Earlier, the CBI filed a chargesheet against former NSE managing director Chitra Ramkrishna and its former group operating officer Anand Subramanian for their alleged role.

The agency arrested Mr. Subramanian in February and days later, Ms. Ramkrishna was also arrested following several rounds of questioning.

In the FIR, the CBI had alleged that the software used in the crime was developed by co-accused Ajay Narottam Shah using the NSE's trade data gathered in 2005-06 ostensibly for research work.

Investigations in the case recently took a new turn when the CBI examined the email exchanges between Ms. Ramkrishna and an unknown "Himalayan yogi", on whose instructions she had allegedly taken various key decisions.

IN BRIEF

Patnaik urges all Odisha MLAs to support Murmu

BHUBANESWAR

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Wednesday appealed to all members of the Odisha Legislative Assembly to extend their support to Droupadi Murmu for her presidential bid by rising above party lines. Soon after her name was announced late evening on Tuesday, Mr. Patnaik congratulated her on being announced as the candidate of the NDA for the country's highest office. It is to be mentioned that his party Biju Janata Dal is not part of NDA. It had severed ties long ago. The NDA is also looking to the BJD for the smooth sailing of Ms. Murmu.

Defamation suit filed against Manish Sidodia

GUWAHATI

Riniki Bhuyan Sarma, the wife of Assam CM Himanta Biswa Sarma, has filed a ₹100-crore defamation suit against Delhi Deputy CM Manish Sisodia for accusing her firm of malpractice involving personal protective equipment kits in 2020. Citing media reports, he said that Mr. Sarma gave PPE supply orders to the firms of his wife and son's partners for ₹990 apiece while the Assam government bought each kit for ₹600 from other companies.

ED allows Sachin Vaze to turn approver

MUMBAI

The ED has allowed dismissed police officer Sachin Vaze to become an approver in a money-laundering case against former Maharashtra Home Minister and NCP leader Anil Deshmukh. The case dates back to March 20, 2021 when former Police Commissioner Param Bir Singh wrote to Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray alleging that Mr. Deshmukh abused his position to seek monetary benefits. It alleged instances of Mr. Deshmukh directing Mr. Vaze and others to collect ₹100 crore from bars and restaurants over a month.

Nitish affirms support for NDA nominee

Droupadi Murmu's victory in Presidential polls is a foregone conclusion, says JD(U) chief Rajiv Ranjan

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PATNA

Janata Dal(U) leader and Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday welcomed the National Democratic Alliance's decision to name tribal leader Droupadi Murmu as its candidate for the Presidential election.

The Chief Minister said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called him to inform him of the decision to field Ms. Murmu. The Opposition United Progressive Alliance (UPA) has fielded former Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha. The election is slated to be held on July 18.

Upbeat mood: Babulal Marandi and other BJP leaders celebrate Draupadi Murmu's candidature, in Ranchi. • PTI

"We express happiness over the candidature of Droupadi Murmu for President of India. She is a tribal woman and it is a matter of great happiness that a tribal woman is the candidate for the highest position in the country. She performed well as a Minister in the Odisha government and her role as Jharkhand Governor was also commendable," Mr. Kumar said in a tweet.

JD(U) president Rajiv Ranjan Singh, aka Lalan Singh, said the Bihar Chief Minister had always stood for empowerment of women and his government had worked for this. "Our party welcomes Droupadi Murmu's candidature for the post of President. Her victory is a foregone conclusion," he said.

Bound to support

However, party sources told *The Hindu* that Mr. Kumar was bound to support the NDA candidate as he had never been on good terms with UPA candidate Yashwant Sinha. Mr. Sinha had been critical of Mr. Kumar and his government on several issues.

Meanwhile, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan said his party would support Ms. Murmu. Mr. Paswan said senior BJP leader and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh had spoken to him.

Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) leader and party spokesperson Manoj Pandey said though his party welcomed Ms. Murmu's candidature, a decision to support her would have to be taken by the top leadership.

Droupadi Murmu may file papers tomorrow

PM, party leaders to accompany her

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The National Democratic Alliance's Presidential candidate, Droupadi Murmu, will in all likelihood file her nomination papers on Friday, accompanied by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and top leaders.

Leaders of the Biju Janata Dal and the YSR Congress Party, who are not part of the NDA but support her candidature, are expected to accompany her. In accordance with norms, a candidate for the post of President needs a set of 50 proposers from among the electors, and 50 seconders, also from among the electors. Sources in the BJP said four sets of nomination papers were being prepared.

BJP president J.P. Nadda held a meeting of the 14-member committee set up to oversee the election of the NDA candidate, with travel plans being drawn up for Ms. Murmu, who will be accompanied by committee members where applicable, as she will visit many States canvassing for support.

In terms of numbers, the NDA is on a strong wicket, having gone well past the halfway mark with the support declared by the BJD and the YSRCP.

Sinha to begin campaign from Ranchi, says it's battle of ideas

However, ruling JMM will find it difficult to oppose Murmu

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Amid speculation that Jharkhand Chief Minister and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha president Hemant Soren will vote for the NDA's Presidential candidate, Droupadi Murmu, the State capital, Ranchi, will be the first campaign stop for Opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha.

So far, Mr. Soren has not made a formal comment, but party insiders claim that in all likelihood, the JMM will vote for Ms. Murmu. Both Ms. Murmu and Mr. Soren belong to the Santhal tribe.

It is a particularly tricky problem for Mr. Soren since he supported the idea of a common candidate and sent out his representative for the first round of the joint Opposition meeting on June 15. Interestingly, the JMM was not present at Tuesday's meeting, where Mr. Sinha's name was finalised. The Congress is a key ally in the Jharkhand government. At the same time, with Ms. Murmu being the first tribal leader in line for the President's post, it will be difficult for the JMM, a party born out of a tribal movement, to oppose her.

Yashwant Sinha

Battle of identity

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Sinha asserted that it was a contest of ideas. "This is not a battle of identity, it is a battle of ideology. And if identity was the parameter, then it can go to ridiculous depths. The JMM has deliberately chosen not to be with the BJP and one hopes that this fundamental sentiment will prevail," he said.

Mr. Sinha has thrice represented the Hazaribagh Lok Sabha constituency in Jharkhand. On June 24, he will be in Ranchi and the next day, he will visit Patna.

In a statement later, he said, "Leaders of one ideology are hell-bent on throttling the Constitution. They believe India's Rashtrapati should not function with a mind of her/his own and should merely serve as a rubber stamp to do the government's bidding. I am proud to belong to the other ideology that is determined to save the Constitution and the Republic.

The Opposition parties have been criticised for picking a former BJP leader to counter the BJP. Mr. Sinha said this criticism was invalid since he had served in a "different BJP". "The BJP which I served is not the BJP of today," he added.

Rairangpur basks in national glory

From dawn, people started queueing up in front of Droupadi Murmu's house

SATYASUNDAR BARIK
BHUBANESWAR

From a nondescript town in one of Odisha's backward regions, Rairangpur overnight finds itself basking in the glow of the national spotlight. It will now forever be known as the home of Droupadi Murmu, who is almost certain to be the next President of India.

The sleepy town woke up early on Wednesday to congratulate Ms. Murmu as she prepares to hold the highest Constitutional post from July. It was not dawn yet but people had started to queue up in front of her Mahuldiha house in Rairangpur. They came not just from Odisha but neighbouring Jharkhand and West Bengal as well.

"Many people had gone to bed early on Tuesday and missed the news of Ms. Murmu being nominated as the Presidential candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA). But phones kept ringing with some denizens enthusiastically sharing the news. In the morning, the message boxes were full," Naveen Ram, a resident of Rairangpur, who has known Ms. Murmu for over two decades, said.

Paying respects: Droupadi Murmu sweeps the Purnandeswar Shiv temple at Rairangpur in Odisha on Wednesday. • PTI

Ms. Murmu, too, only managed to catch a few hours of sleep. "Congratulatory messages kept flowing till late into the night and madam had to answer each phone call," Kishore K. Rajak, a close associate of Ms. Murmu, said. By morning, she had Z-plus security cover. Armed personnel of the National Security Guard and State Police personnel had taken their positions, with control over the flow of visitors to her home.

After she was nominated for the top post, Ms. Murmu went to temples to pray. She was seen sweeping the floor of a local Shiva temple at Rairangpur. She also went to Jaher, a Santhal sacred grove. Ms. Murmu belongs to the Santhal tribe.

As the flow of visitors to her residence began to swell over the course of the day, security forces had to intervene. Those who know Ms. Murmu, however, had unhindered access to her home.

"Despite personal tragedies, she has achieved spectacular success in her life. When she was Governor of Jharkhand, she used to come to her house more often. She has conducted herself like any other normal citizen of Rairangpur," Mithila Tudu, a resident of Rairangpur, said.

The 64-year-old has endured the untimely death of her husband, Shyam Charan Murmu, and of two sons. She has one daughter, who works in a bank.

Ms. Murmu was born in Uparbeda village under the Kusumi block of Mayurbhanj district. A vegetarian, who often carries packed food to her workplace, Ms. Murmu started out as a clerk in Odisha's Irrigation Department.

Golden era of Santhal tribe in India now, say community leaders

STAFF REPORTER
BHUBANESWAR

The Santhal community is in the spotlight after the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) nominated one of its leaders, Droupadi Murmu, for the election to the highest Constitutional post of India.

With chances bright for Ms. Murmu to become the first tribal person to become the President, community members appear to be on cloud nine. Santhal is the third largest Scheduled Tribe community in the country after Gond and Bhil.

The Santhal population is mostly distributed in Odisha, Jharkhand and West Bengal. Ms. Murmu's home district, Mayurbhanj, has one of the largest concentrations of the tribe. In Odisha, Santhals are found in Keonjhar and Balasore, other than in Mayurbhanj district.

According to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Research and Training Institute (SCSTRTI), Bhubaneswar, the word Santhal is derived from two words: *santha* meaning calm and peaceful and *ala* meaning man.

The institute says that in the past, the Santhals had led a nomadic life. Gradually, they came to settle down on the Chhotanagpur plateau. Towards the end of the 18th century, they migrated to the Santhal Parganas of Bihar and then they came to Odisha. Community leaders say it is a golden era now for Santhals in the country. If elected, Ms. Murmu will become the first tribal woman President of India. Hemant Soren, a Santhal, is the Chief Minister of Jharkhand. Girish Chandra Murmu, the first Lieutenant-Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, is now Comptroller and Auditor-General of India.

Mayurbhanj MP Bishweswar Tudu, a Santhal, is the Union Minister of State for Tribal Affairs and Jal Shakti.

"Their literacy rate is very high compared with that of other tribes in Odisha. If one sees in terms of prosperity in the community, its members playing key roles in national and international spheres, Santhals have few parallel," SCSTRTI Director A.B. Ota said.

Santhals speak Santhali which has its own script called Ol Chiki invented by Pundit Raghunath Murmu. Santhali in the Ol Chiki script has been included in the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution. Ol-Chiki is the medium of instruction in many schools across the State. Santhal is a subject for postgraduate study.

MISSING

The above shown is the photo of missing persons in Crime No 476/2022 U/s 57 of KP Act Kovalam Police Station, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Their details are as follows:

- **Name - AMIT GUPTA, Height - 160 cm, Known Languages - Hindi, Hair Colour - mixed gray hair, Colour - White, Build - Bulky**
- **Name - PINKY GUPTA, Height- 158 cm, Known Language- Hindi, Hair- Short, Colour- White, Build- Normal**
- **Name - ADAF GUPTA, Age - 5**

The above said Three were stayed in Mareena Guest House Kovalam and missing from the above said Guest House on 30.04.2022.

Station House Officer - 9497947102
Kovalam Police Station - 0471 2480 255

RO/01509/F2/2022/I&PRD

TAMILNADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	SE / C / Dist	05	1

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website, www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/2933/Tender/2022

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
No.BMTC/CO/COSP/TENDER/04/2022-23 Dt: 22.06.2022.
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender is invited through e-procurement portal for the following items.
(1) Tender No.& Date: BMTC/2022/007 Date.22.06.2022. **(Regular Tender)** Description: **Supply of ETM along with ETM Software on rental basis for BMTC.** Tender Value Approximate: **Rs. 494.00 Lakhs.** Last date for bid submission in e-procurement portal: **11.07.2022 at 14.30 Hrs.**
*For more details visit **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Controller of Stores and Purchases (Tender Inviting Authority)

IndianOil
CIN-L23201MH1959GOI011388
Research & Development Centre, Faridabad
NOTICE INVITING EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)
IndianOil R&D invites EOI for "Vendor empanelment for sourcing DeMet & Grading bed catalysts for hydrotreating units". For further details, kindly refer EOI No: RNDEOI2202 in following weblink (**https://eprocure.gov.in/epublish/app**)

SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM LIMITED
CIN U75302KL2017SGC050027
TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited for the following project of Smart City Thiruvananthapuram Limited Project **Design Supply Installation and Maintenance of Tensile Roof Structure above the central plaza of EK Nayanar RFP for Selection of Contractor for Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Tensile Roof Structure above the central plaza of E.K Nayanar memorial park on EPC Mode at Thiruvananthapuram.**

Sl. No	NAME OF PROJECT	TENDER ID	PAC AMOUNT (EXCLUSIVE OF GST)
1	Design Supply Installation and Maintenance of Tensile Roof Structure above the central plaza of EK Nayanar RFP for Selection of Contractor for Design, Supply, Installation and Maintenance of Tensile Roof Structure above the central plaza of E.K Nayanar memorial park on EPC Mode at Thiruvananthapuram	2022 SCTLT_496035_1	Rs. 3,27,93,601 excluding GST

Bid Submission Last Date: 14th July 2022, Thursday, 5:30 PM
Date and Time of Opening Price Bid: To Be Intimated Separately to Technically Qualified Bidders by e-mail.
All the RFP documents and details are available on https://www.smartcitytvm.in/
(Sd/-) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
SMART CITY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM Ltd.

Agriculture University, Jodhpur
Jodhpur – 342304 (Rajasthan) Website : www.aujodhpur.ac.in, Email : registraraujdp@gmail.com, Telefax : (O) 0291-2570711
Advt. No. :- AUJ/2022/05 Date :- 21/06/2022
Advertisement for the post of Vice-Chancellor (AU, Jodhpur)
Application/nominations, in prescribed application format, are invited for the post of Vice-Chancellor, Agriculture University, Jodhpur, on behalf of the Search Committee. The applicants are advised to send their application by post and email in the prescribed format so as to reach the office of the undersigned on or before **25 July, 2022 at 05.00 PM.** Detailed advertisement and application format can be downloaded from the website **www.aujodhpur.ac.in** or **www.rajbhawan.gov.in**.
Raj.Samwad/C/22/3836 REGISTRAR

TAMILNADU GENERATION AND DISTRIBUTION CORPORATION LTD
Notice Inviting Tenders (E-Tendering Process)

Sl.No.	Tender Inviting Authority	Specification No.	Total
1	CE / MM	M.13, M.14	2

For details of works / Procurement / Due date of submission / opening, viewing and downloading of e-tenders, please visit website, www.tangedco.gov.in, www.tenders.tn.gov.in, www.tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app
DIPR/2936/Tender/2022

ICMR – NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF TRADITIONAL MEDICINE
Nehru Nagar, National Highway No. 4,
BELAGAVI - 590 010. Tel: 0831- 2475477
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
The Director, ICMR-NITM, Belagavi invites tender in single bid system for **Disposal of vehicles - 02 Nos.**, on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS"** at ICMR – NITM, Belagavi. For details like Tender document, vehicles model, EMD, Terms & conditions, etc., further updates, corrigendum, if any institute website **https://icmrnitm.res.in** may be referred.
The last date of submission of bid documents will be **13.07.2022 upto 02:00 p.m.**
Date : **21.06.2022** Sd/-
Place: **Belagavi** Director

INSTITUTE OF ROAD TRANSPORT
Regd. Office:
100 Feet Road, Taramani, Chennai - 600113, Tamil Nadu, India
Global Invitation for submitting Expression of Interest (EOI) for supply and deployment of Electric Buses (Battery Operated Electric Vehicle) along with Charging Infrastructure in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
IRT reference No.17/EOI-EB/CP/IRT/2022
KFW reference No: BMZ209919234/KfW508477
Institute of Road Transport (IRT) intends to purchase 100nos. of 12m, Low - Floor AC Electric Buses for Urban application on behalf of Metropolitan Transport Corporation (MTC), Chennai, Tamil Nadu along with Charging Infrastructure and bus repair and maintenance equipment and spares etc. Expression of Interests (EoI) are invited from reputed National and International Vehicle Manufacturers with manufacturing facilities and experience in deployment of electric buses and charging solutions and are requested to present their credentials and proposed technological solutions with respect to the technical and functional requirements of electric bus operations in Chennai as specified in the EoI document. The EoI Document can be downloaded from **https://tntenders.gov.in** and **www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc.** The proposal for the EoI shall be in English only and shall be submitted online only at **https://www.mstcecommerce.com/eproc/index.jsp** before **3.00 PM on 22.07.2022.** The interested bidders are requested to send queries if any to **irttaramani@gmail.com** and/or **irtcpo@gmail.com** before **04.07.2022.**
Note: The invitation for EoI is open for all, unpriced and non-binding process. Non- submission of the EoI from any prospective bidder/interested party shall not be considered as disqualification for the RFP stage.
DIPR/2958/Tender/2022 DIRECTOR

ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY (AWES)
ADMISSION NOTICE : B Sc (NURSING) DEGREE COURSE
CORRIGENDUM
Reference to the original advertisement published in the newspaper on 03 Jun 2022, last date for submission of online application form for admission into B.Sc (Nursing) Course at Army Institute of Nursing Guwahati and Army College of Nursing Jalandhar Cantt extends from **26th Jun 2022 to 30th Jun 2022 and** for downloading of Admit Cards from **03rd July, 2022** onwards.
Candidates must visit for details AIN, Guwahati website : www.ainguwahati.org and ACN Jalandhar Cantt website : www.acn.co.in regularly.

JAIPUR VIDYUT VITRAN NIGAM LIMITED
Office of the Superintending Engineer (Regulation)
Room No. 149, Old Power House Premises, Banipark, Jaipur-302016
Email- ser@jvvnl.org Website: energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl
E- PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
E-tenders in two parts (Techno-commercial bid and Price bid) are invited from eligible bidders for Configuration of devices with providing SCADA Software License, Deployment, Integration and Go Live services for each Remote Monitoring System as well as integration with existing State Level Portal & National Level Portal of PM-KUSUM Scheme Component - A, B & C along with 05 years cloud services (MEITY approved) and O&M contract under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM Scheme).All the details regarding tenders available at web site www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in vide NIT No. JVVNL/ SE(REGULATION)/ XEN(DSM)/SCADA/TN-08. In future, corrigendum/extension, if any, shall be published only at web site www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jvvnl, http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in and www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in UBN No. VVN2223WL0B00104
JPR 2715 (2022) SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (REGULATION)
Raj.Samwad/C/22/3995 For Electricity Complaints Toll Free No. 1800 180 6507

TAMIL NADU MINERALS LIMITED
No. 31, Kamarajar Salai, Chepauk, Chennai - 600 005
Ph :044-28862018 / 28511972
NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER with Forward Bidding

Description	Sale of Graphite ore (As mined) at Graphite Mine, Sivaganga, Tamilnadu
Tender No. & Date Tender ID	TAMIN/258/VAP-2/2022, Dated : 21.06.2022 2022_TAMIN_236003_1
Bid submission end date	21.07.2022 upto 1400 hrs
Technical bid opening date	22.07.2022 at 1600 hrs
EMD	Rs.1,18,000/- (Rupees One lakh eighteen thousand only)
Tender form fee	Rs.2,000/- (Rupees Two thousand only)

Note : For further details please visit Tamil Nadu e-tendering portal : https://tntenders.gov.in
DIPR/2963/Tender/2022 GENERAL MANAGER (FINANCE)

कार्यालय नगर निगम, भरतपुर
क्रमांक / न.नि.भ. / पूल शाखा / 2022–23 / 2820 दिनांक: 16.06.2022
ई–निविदा सूचना
नगर निगम भरतपुर में हल्के एवं भारी वाहनों पर मालक उपलब्ध कराने हेतु केन्द्र सरकार व राज्य सरकार के विभागों में उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत, अनुभवी संवेदकों / फर्म / NGO से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया के अन्तर्गत ऑनलाइन निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है। समस्त कार्यों के लिए धरोहर राशि के अनुमानित लागत पर सक्षम संवेदक द्वारा 2 प्रतिशत राशि पृथक–पृथक रूप से खाते में RTGS/NEFT के माध्यम से जमा कराना होगा। निविदा की महत्वपूर्ण शर्तें एवं विवरण वेबसाईट http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in एवं http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/ पर देखी जा सकती है।

कार्यों की संख्या	01 कार्य
कार्यों की कुल लागत	22.00 Lac
वेब साईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से निविदा डाउनलोड करने की समय व तिथि	दिनांक 21.06.2022 से 30.06.2022 सांय 6.00 बजे तक
वेब साईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से ऑनलाइन निविदा अपलोड करने की अन्तिम समय व तिथि	दिनांक 30.06.2022 सांय 6.00 बजे
नगर निगम में प्रोसेसिंग शुल्क निविदा शुल्क धरोहर राशि की यू.टी.आर. रसीद भौतिक रूप से जमा कराने की तिथि	दिनांक 01.07.2022 दोपहर 12.00 बजे
तकनीकी निविदा खोलने की समय व तिथि	दिनांक 01.07.2022 सांय 4.00 बजे, नगर निगम, भरतपुर

UBN NO.: DLB2223SLRC08469
राज.संवाद/सी/3749/2022–2023
आयुक्त
नगर निगम, भरतपुर

Rain and snow lead to Kashmir floods

Most rivers and tributaries in spate in the Valley; two persons reported missing in Pahalgam

PEERZADA ASHIQ
SRINAGAR

Heavy rain in the plains and snowfall in the upper reaches on Wednesday left most rivers and tributaries in Jammu and Kashmir in spate and triggered flash floods, inundation of residential areas and closure of highways. Two persons went missing in Pahalgam in south Kashmir where a group of tourists were left stranded by the inclement weather.

A spokesman of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, Kashmir, said the people residing along the Jhelum river in south, central and north Kashmir were requested to remain vigilant as water was flowing above the danger mark at several places in the Valley. "The flood duty as per the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) has been put in force," the spokesman said.

Even the residents living along the higher contours of tributaries, including the Vishow and Rambiyara streams in south Kashmir, were also asked "to remain vigilant as water level was expected to rise further in response to the rainfall in the catchment". Classwork in schools was suspended in eight districts of the Valley "as a precautionary measure".

Under water: Residents wade through a flooded street in the Bemina area of Srinagar on Wednesday. • NISSAR AHMAD

Two persons, one a tourist from Uttarakhand, went missing in the upper reaches of Pahalgam in south Kashmir. "A group of trekkers was stranded in upper reaches of Tarsar-Marsar lakes. Fortunately, 11 sightseers were rescued so far but two, including a doctor from Uttarakhand, went missing after they drowned in a stream," Mohammad Hussain Mir, an official said.

Vehicles were struck by mudslides on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway in Udhampur and Ramban districts, which left the crucial road closed. The Shopian-Poonch and Srinagar-Gurez highways were closed after snowfall. Kashmir's upper reaches, including locations in tourist hotspots of Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Sonamarg and Gurez, received snowfall, unusual for June.

The fresh snowfall has set in a cold wave. Srinagar's maximum temperature hovered around 15°C, 14 notches lower than the normal.

In receding mode, Assam floods kill 12

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The flood situation improved marginally in Assam on Wednesday but left 12 people dead, officials said.

According to the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the number of flood-affected districts came down from 31 to 29 during the last 24 hours, with almost 4 lakh people returning home.

"Minus the status of three districts from where we are yet to receive reports, 12 human lives have been lost since Tuesday evening. There are now 51.25 lakh affected people across 4,374 villages and 97,368.50 hectares of cropland under water," an ASDMA spokesperson said.

A total of 101 people has died in floods and rain-induced landslips in Assam so far.

Wadhawans, DHFL booked in ₹34,615-crore fraud case

Firm, promoters allegedly cheated a consortium of 17 banks

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has booked Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. (DHFL), its promoters and others for allegedly cheating a consortium of 17 banks of ₹34,615 crore. This is the biggest-ever bank fraud case registered by the agency.

Among those arraigned are the DHFL's then chairman-cum-managing director Kapil Wadhawan, promoter director Dheeraj Wadhawan, Sudhakar Shetty of the Sahana Group, Amaryllis Realtors, Gulmarg Realtors, Skylark Buildcon, Darshan Developers, Sigtia Constructions, Creatoz Builders, Township Developers, Shishir Reality and Sunblink Real Estate.

On Wednesday, the CBI conducted searches on the premises of the accused persons at 12 places in different parts of Mumbai.

Incorporated in April 1984, the DHFL extended financial assistance to low- and middle-income group individuals for buying houses and also engaged in other financial intermediation.

The CBI conducted searches on premises of accused at 12 places in Mumbai. • REUTERS

The case has been registered on a complaint from the Union Bank of India, which led the consortium. According to the first information report (FIR), a group of 29 lenders, formed in July 2010, initially extended credit facilities to the company. In July 2020, there were 17 consortium members and the quantum of credit facilities was ₹42,871.42 crore.

The loans were sanctioned by lenders in Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Kochi, Pune, Chennai, Hyderabad, Mangalore and Bengaluru.

This aside, the banks had subscribed to the DHFL's non-convertible debentures in 2016-18. The company defaulted on its debt payment obligations from May 2019 onwards.

Well before that, several non-banking finance companies were facing problems in fund-raising after the IL&FS Group entities defaulted on its commitments. It was followed by a sharp correction in the DHFL share price.

DHFL-linked entities are already under the scanner of multiple probe agencies for alleged financial irregularities, including the Yes Bank loans.

In March 2021, the CBI had booked the company and its promoters for allegedly claiming interest subsidy under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

MoD approves 'BRO cafes' in border areas

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Defence on Wednesday approved the setting up of wayside amenities with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), to be branded as 'BRO Cafes', at 75 locations in 12 States and Union Territories on different sections of roads.

"These are intended to provide basic amenities and comfort to tourists and lead to boosting of economic activities in border areas, besides generating employment for the local people," the Ministry said in a statement.

The scheme provides for wayside amenities in public-private partnership mode with agencies, on a licence basis, which will design, build and operate the facility as per guidelines of the BRO. Proposed amenities include parking for two and four wheelers, food plaza, restaurant, separate rest rooms for men, women and differently abled, and first aid facilities, among others. Selection of licences will be done through a competitive process, the Ministry said.

To provide comfortable transit of tourists on these roads, located at harsh climatic conditions, the need to establish multi-utility wayside amenities was recognised, it said.

Australia says LAC assault was a warning

Deputy Prime Minister Richard Marles says his country stood up for India's sovereignty then

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

The assault on Indian forces along the Line of Actual Control in 2020 was a "warning we should all heed", and Australia stood up for India's sovereignty then and continues to do so now, visiting Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles said on Wednesday. He was referring to the stand-off in eastern Ladakh and the clash in Galwan which led to the death of 20 Indian soldiers. It is vital that China "commits to resolving this dispute" through dialogue, he said.

Australian Deputy PM Richard Marles with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on Wednesday. • R. V. MOORTHY

"It is vital that China commits to resolving this dispute through a process of dialogue consistent with international law. The global rules-based order matters everywhere, including in the highest place on earth," Mr. Marles said at the National Defence College on Wednesday.

Earlier in the day, he held a bilateral meeting with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh during which the two sides agreed to explore means to grow connections and opportunities between the defence industrial bases of two countries as well as to increase the resilience of supply chains and deliver capabilities to their respective defence forces, the Defence Ministry said.

"It is critical that China's neighbours do not see its build-up as a risk for them because without that reassurance, it is inevitable that countries will seek to upgrade their own military capabilities in response," Mr. Marles said in the address referring to China's massive military build-up. He termed India as "one of the priorities of the new Australian government".

He said the return of war in Europe was another warning while adding that he was not here to "lecture" India on how it should respond to this conflict, or how it should manage its relationship with Russia.

A Defence Ministry statement said that both Ministers committed to give a fillip to the India-Australia Joint Working Group (JWG) on Defence Research and Materiel Cooperation, which will meet in Australia later this year.

India is also set to participate participation in Australia's Indo-Pacific Endeavour exercise in October 2022.

Modi to attend G-7 summit in Germany

Members to plan move against Russia

SUHASINI HAIDAR
BONN/NEW DELHI

As the world's most developed economies meet for the G-7 summit this weekend to discuss their next move against Russia, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will fly to the German Alpine resort of Schloss Elmau as a special invitee to the meeting on June 26 and 27, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) announced on Wednesday.

Narendra Modi

New Delhi is preparing for more pressure from the G-7 countries, including Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the U.K., the U.S. and the EU, which have unitedly imposed sanctions on Russia since it invaded Ukraine. They want India to cooperate in restricting its purchase of Russian oil, not circumvent the sanctions by using a rupee-rouble mechanism, and in lifting the ban on the export of wheat, all requests that the Modi government has turned down.

"The Prime Minister is expected to speak in two sessions that include environment, energy, climate, food security, health, gender equality and democracy," the MEA said, announcing that the PM would hold bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit.

The visit from June 26 to 28 will include a stopover on the return journey in Abu Dhabi, where Mr. Modi will pay a condolence visit following the death of UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, and meet with the new ruler and President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Among the special invitees to the G-7 summit are the leaders of Argentina, Indonesia, Senegal and South Africa, and ahead of an expected meeting between Mr. Modi and Indonesian President Joko Widodo on June 27, officials are working on finding common ground on keeping an independent position in the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and keeping the focus on the economic impact of the war. Mr. Modi and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa will attend a virtual summit of BRICS hosted by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Four new corals recorded from Indian waters

The species newly found off Andaman and Nicobar belong to the same family called Flabellidae

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Scientists have recorded four species of corals for the first time from Indian waters. These new records of four species of azooxanthellate corals were found from the waters off the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The azooxanthellate corals are a group of corals that do not contain zooxanthellae and that derive nourishment not from the sun but from capturing different forms of planktons. They are deep-sea representatives with the majority of species reporting between 200 m and 1,000 m and their occurrences are also reported from shallow coastal waters unlike zooxanthellate corals that are restricted to shallow waters.

The coral *Truncatoflabellum crassum (Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848).*

The details of the new records have been published in *Thalassas: An International Journal of Marine Sciences*. The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) scientist behind these new records, Tamal Mondal, said that all the four groups of corals are from the same family, Flabellidae.

Truncatoflabellum crassum (Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848), *T. incrustatum* Cairns, 1989, *T. aculeatum* (Milne Edwards and Haime, 1848), and *T. irregulare* (Semper, 1872) under the family Flabellidae were previously found in Japan to the Philippines and Australian waters while only *T. crassum* was reported with the range of Indo-West Pacific distribution.

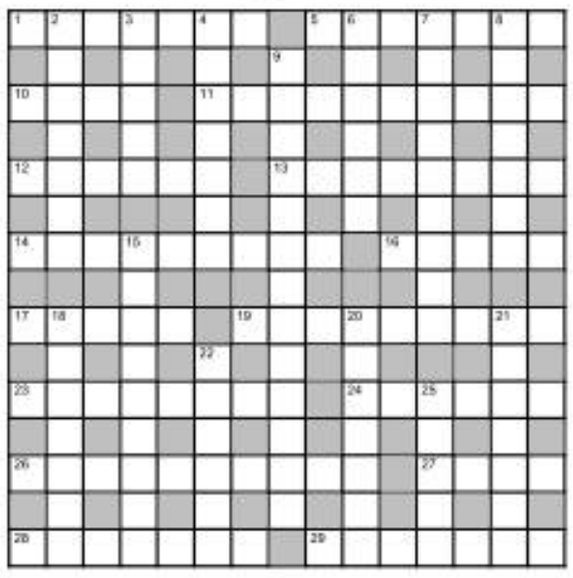
Mr. Mondal said that azooxanthellate corals are a group of hard corals and the four new records are not only solitary but have a highly compressed skeletal structure. "Most studies of hard corals in India have been concentrated on reef-building corals while much is not known about non-reef-building corals," he added.

TH CROSSWORD + 13590

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN



Across

1 Stir freshly cut fruit (7)
5 Shops due to get millions (7)
10 Avtaar leaves His Majesty drinking a peg (4)
11 Cheap American car featured in a fairy tale (10)
12 Distant acquaintance? (3,3)
13 Old writer taking shot at limerick – basically, it is an easy target (4,4)
14 Cry for help if the pot's burning (4,5)
16 They project women on the radio (5)
17 Act withdrawn by a story-teller (5)
19 A place to rest and drop lifeless, according to Spooner (6,3)
23 Unpredictable Western movie recording starting off with cage (4-4)
24 Estate of Parisian cardinal (6)
26 With malice, aunt turned to libel (10)
27 Controversial case of migrant eating exposed food (4)
28 Modification of limits for trade and price leads to cash inflow (7)
29 A dame, naked in shower – becomes red-faced (7)

Down

2 Grade set wrongly? That is most offensive (7)
3 Find dog with name written in Arabic (3,2)
4 Everybody's invited to "Tea and Hot Bread" (7)
6 Navy quietly dumps contracts for cradles (6)
7 Drink in poem about diversity followed by Auden's introduction (9)
8 Maybe Trojan horse's entertaining somersaulting drill? (7)
9 Without external help, no bet was on (3,4,3,3)
15 Short time in troupe reformed Sue (9)
18 Drug mafia's chief upset the office of the Head of Kuwait (7)
20 They make name-tags for hounds (7)
21 Chapter missing in classic book's abstract (7)
22 West Indian city rising after "Operation Ease Lockdown" (4,2)
25 Mother of millions – most affectionate, primarily (5)

SUDOKU

3				6				
		5						1
		2	7		8		6	
2	9		3		7			
6	3			1			7	9
			4		6		1	2
	8		2		9	5		
5						2		
				3				6

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 13589

E	T	H	N	I	C		T	R
S	E		V			E	N	T
T	E	A	B	A	G		L	A
I		D		N		I		L
M	I	S	S	T	A	T	E	
A		O		H	E		M	
T	R	U	C	E	B	R	E	A
E		T		T		A		C
			B	E	O	N	T	H
G		T		R		T		E
A	P	I	A	R	Y		S	T
R		F		I		V		E
L	I	F	E	S	O	A	T	
I		I		L		N		
C	O	N	D	E	N	S	E	

I	C		T	R	I	S	T	I	C	H
		E		N		T		Y		
A	G		L	A	V	A	L	A	M	P
		N		I		L		P		L
S	T	A	T	E		I	O	D	I	N
		H		E		M		N		C
C	E	R	B	R	E	A	K	E	R	
		T		T		A		C		S
	B	E	O	N	T	H	E	F	E	N
		R		T		E		I		D
A	R	Y		S	T	A	N	F	O	R
		I		V		E		O		L
E	S	O	A	T		V	E	N	E	E
		L		N				R		N
E	N	S	E		T	S	E	T	S	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

2	5	9	8	1	6	3	4	7
1	8	4	5	3	7	6	9	2
6	3	7	9	4	2	1	5	8
8	2	3	1	7	9	4	6	5
5	9	1	6	8	4	2	7	3
4	7	6	2	5	3	8	1	9
7	6	5	4	2	8	9	3	1
3	4	8	7	9	1	5	2	6
9	1	2	3	6	5	7	8	4

FAITH

The way of penance

We often speak of penance but how is one to understand its import? Who really does penance? The term 'tapas' refers to penance or asceticism, which is identified in qualities of heart like truthfulness, ahimsa, endurance, selfless service and so on, rather than certain external marks and ways of life. In fact, Tiruvalluvar says that 'thavam,' the Tamizh word for 'tapas' or penance, is manifest in each individual's desire to consciously practise these qualities and principles in day-to-day life, pointed out Sri Nallur Sa Saravanan in a discourse. All beings are bound to reach God whether they are aware of this or not. Every birth brings with it many opportunities to each individual who tries to learn about this quest. The time-tested rule, 'learning and practising what is learnt,' that helps one to become mature and adept in any field or vocation is also relevant for those who wish to tread this path to reach the ultimate goal. There is the chance to improve one's nature and mind by penance. There is no time limit for this process.

Tiruvalluvar gives prime place to endurance or tolerance which he says is reflected in people's nature in two ways, the ability to accept whatever is one's lot and also refraining from causing harm to other beings. More important is his observation that when one gets the desire to do penance, one automatically directs his actions to a certain worthwhile purpose. The result is most beneficial as this makes him avoid all those acts that are not relevant for him in life. The life of Ramalinga Adigalar is an example of how leading a life of penance can endow one with higher and subtle attainments. This saint, who lived among us, has inspired many into the paths of satya and dharma by the way he lived his life rather than by merely speaking of these values.

'India, Russia should have direct trade and investment agreements'

Industrialist Oleg Deripaska says the Ukraine war has pushed Moscow to develop new trade and investment ties with India, China and Southeast Asian countries

KSENIA KONDRATIEVA
ST. PETERSBURG

As Russia's access to its traditional markets of exports and imports are hugely limited following its Ukraine invasion and the subsequent sanctions, Moscow is looking to develop new trade and investment relations with partners in Asia, including India, China and Southeast Asian countries, said Russian aluminium tycoon Oleg Deripaska.

Speaking on the sidelines of 25th St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), also known as the 'Russian Davos', Mr. Deripaska, founder of RUSAL, one of the world's largest aluminium producers, said there's an understanding that "the new normal" would fundamentally change Russia's economic reality in the coming years.

To facilitate such a shift, he said, Russia needed to create the same kind of infrastructure as it had built over the 12 years, from 1991 to 2003, with Europe. This includes setting up new logistics routes and related infrastructure, customs procedures, trade agreements, infrastructure for settlements, gaining access to capital markets and creating an ecosystem for various modes of trade financing.

Transport corridors

Mr. Deripaska, who has been under U.S. sanctions since 2018, was one of the few Russian billionaires who publicly criticised President Vladimir Putin's "special military operation" in Ukraine. Following the February 24 invasion, Britain and the EU have also imposed sanctions on him.

"It is a lengthy process," he said about the shift in the trade routes. "We need to build transport corridors through the Bosphorus via Turkey to North Africa and the Middle East; through the Caspian Sea via Iran to India; and from the [Russian] Far East to Southeast Asia. This requires significant efforts and large investments."

The funding, he added, should come from both the government and the corporate sector, as well as the countries that would benefit from those new routes, including India, as this would reduce the price of key commodities, including oil and gas, in the long term.

"This is a complex process, it will require certain efforts from the government

Oleg Deripaska

– which, too, must change its approach and thinking. If earlier we relied on the WTO and believed everyone plays by the same rules, it is clearly a thing of the past now," the tycoon said.

Turn to the East

It is important for both Russia and India to have direct trade agreements and bilateral investment treaties, Mr. Deripaska added. Solving the payment issues by creating a full-fledged settlement ecosystem that is supported by currency swaps as well as new-age mechanisms like digital currency and cryptocurrency is another critical factor to enable Russia's 'Turn to the East'.

Moscow and New Delhi have been attempting to finalise negotiations of the Bilateral Investment Treaty for several years now, while talks on a trade agreement between India and the Eurasian Economic Union, comprising Russia, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, have been under way since 2017. The bilateral trade between India and Russia stood at around $13 billion by the end of 2021, and the countries have set a target of $30 billion by 2025.

"Look, Russia's annual bilateral trade with the European Union was in the range of €750 billion to €1 trillion. We expect to reach around $200 billion with China in the next three years; it could be even $500 billion, depending on what kind of economic growth Russia will be able to maintain. I believe Russia-India bilateral trade will reach $120-150 billion in the next decade, I have no doubt about that," Mr. Deripaska said.

India's energy needs

He added that India as a dynamically growing economy would require raw materials and energy resources, machinery, components, and technologies that Russia could supply. Emphasising India's energy needs vis-à-vis its strong commitments to carbon neutrality, Mr. Deripaska noted the growing importance of nuclear energy as a base load source of energy, and Russia's advanced nuclear generation capabilities, including its leading positions in the fast breeder reactor technology, paved the way for broader cooperation in this field.

"Resources will be very important to India if it wishes to have minimal carbon footprints, and Russia can supply some of the most sustainable raw materials," Mr. Deripaska said.

India has increased its imports of Russian hydrocarbons many-fold over the past few months.

"One should understand that [redirecting trade and investment flows] won't happen all of a sudden, also because of the existing sanctions. See, sanctions have an instantly destructive effect, but at the same time, they have a certain lifespan, an expiration date. I have been under sanctions, so I do understand how it works," Mr. Deripaska said.

"The lifespan of sanctions is two years. For two years, people will be reluctant [to cooperate], but after two years, the ways will be found, and agreements will be reached. I am confident that in the next two and a half years, we will find ways to work with all our major partners, and in 10 years Russia's exports will be well-diversified," Mr. Deripaska added.

Ksenia Kondratieva is an independent journalist based in Moscow

Kyiv, Moscow far from peace talks: Scholz

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
BERLIN

Ukraine and Russia are a long way from ending the war through negotiations, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said on Wednesday, adding that President Vladimir Putin still wrongly believed he could dictate the terms of peace.

"The truth is, we are far from negotiations between Ukraine and Russia. Because Putin still believes in the possibility of a dictated peace," Mr. Scholz said in an address to German lawmakers.

'Task for generations'

The German Chancellor also said that Ukraine needed massive financial help to rebuild after the devastation wrought by Russia's invasion. Mr. Scholz added that the reconstruction would be a "task for generations".

Pro-Russian forces 'close to encircling' key Ukrainian city

Massive Russian bombing has turned Luhansk into hell, says regional Governor

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MOSCOW

Pro-Russian separatists in Ukraine claimed on Wednesday they were close to surrounding Ukrainian forces defending the twin cities of Lysychansk and Severodonetsk, the site of fierce weeks-long fighting.

An officer in the separatist army of Luhansk – a pro-Russian breakaway region in eastern Ukraine – said their forces surrounded Ukrainian troops in the villages of Hirsk and Zolote, a day after capturing the neighbouring village of Toshkivka.

The three settlements are located a few kilometres outside Severodonetsk and Lysychansk, which Moscow's forces have been trying to seize for weeks. "Very soon (Ukrainian) groups in Lysychansk and Severodonetsk will also be surrounded," Andrei Marochko told Russian state TV.

In Zolote and Hirsk "there is a full encirclement of Ukrainian troops", he added.

Intense fighting for the strategic city of Severodonetsk has raged as Russian forces advance in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region.

Honouring the dead: People attending the funeral of a Ukrainian commander in central Kyiv on Wednesday. • REUTERS

Meanwhile, Kyiv said "massive" Russian bombardment" has turned Severodonetsk into "hell", while insisting that defenders would hold "as long as necessary".

"The Russian army is massively shelling Lysychansk," Sergiy Gaiday, Governor of the Lugansk region, wrote on Telegram. "They are just destroying everything there... They destroyed buildings and unfortunately there are casualties."

He later wrote that "it's just hell out there" after four months of shelling in Severodonetsk, across the Donets river – while adding that "our boys are holding their positions and will continue to hold on as long as necessary".

In a briefing on Wednesday, the Russian Defence Ministry claimed responsibility for a missile strike it said killed a number of Ukrainian troops in southern Mykolaiv. In central Ukrainian city Zaporizhzhia, women were training to use Kalashnikov assault rifles in urban combat as Russian forces edged nearer.

Economy has collapsed, unable to buy oil: Ranil

We could fall to rock bottom, says PM

ASSOCIATED PRESS
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka's debt-laden economy has "collapsed" after months of shortages of food, fuel and electricity, its Prime Minister told lawmakers on Wednesday, in comments underscoring the country's dire situation as it seeks help from international lenders.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe told Parliament the South Asian country is "facing a far more serious situation beyond the mere shortages of fuel, gas, electricity and food. Our economy has completely collapsed."

While Sri Lanka's crisis is considered its worst in recent memory, Mr. Wickremesinghe's assertion that the economy has collapsed did not cite any specific new developments. It appeared intended to emphasise to his critics and Opposition lawmakers that he has inherited a difficult task that can't be fixed quickly, as the economy founders under the weight of heavy debts, lost tourism revenue and other impacts from the pandemic, as well as surging costs for commodities.

Lawmakers of the country's two main Opposition parties are boycotting Parliament this week to protest against Mr. Wickremesinghe, who became Prime Minister just over a month ago and is also Finance Minister, for not having delivered on his pledges to turn the economy around.

Ranil Wickremesinghe

Mr. Wickremesinghe said Sri Lanka is unable to purchase imported fuel, even for cash, due to heavy debt owed by its petroleum corporation.

"Currently, the Ceylon Petroleum Corporation is $700 million in debt," he told lawmakers. "As a result, no country or organisation in the world is willing to provide fuel to us. They are even reluctant to provide fuel for cash."

Mr. Wickremesinghe took office after days of violent protests over the country's economic crisis forced his predecessor to step down. On Wednesday, he blamed the previous government for failing to act in time.

"If steps had at least been taken to slow down the collapse of the economy at the beginning, we would not be facing this difficult situation today. But we lost out on this opportunity. We are now seeing signs of a possible fall to rock bottom."

Poliovirus found in U.K. sewage sample

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
GENEVA

A type of poliovirus derived from vaccines has been detected in London sewage samples, the World Health Organization and British health officials said on Wednesday, adding that more analysis was under way.

No human cases of polio have been found in Britain, where the crippling disease was fully eradicated two decades ago.

The WHO said in a statement that "type 2 vaccine-derived poliovirus (VDPV2)" had been found in environmental samples in the British capital.

"It is important to note that the virus has been isolated from environmental samples only," it said, stressing that "no associated cases of paralysis have been detected." But it warned, "any form of poliovirus anywhere is a threat to children everywhere."

A global effort has in recent decades come close to wiping out polio, a crippling and potentially fatal viral disease that mainly affects children under the age of five. Cases have decreased by 99% since 1988.

The wild version of the virus now exists only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but a type of vaccine that contains small amounts of weakened but live polio still causes occasional outbreaks elsewhere.

Biden calls for pause on gas tax amid record prices

He faces opposition from own party

REUTERS

U.S. President Joe Biden on Wednesday called on Congress to pass a three-month suspension of the federal gasoline tax to help combat record pump prices and provide temporary relief for American families this summer.

The President also urged States to temporarily suspend state fuel taxes, which are often higher than federal rates, the official said, and will challenge major oil companies to bring ideas on how to bring back idled refining capacity.

Mr. Biden and his advisers have been discussing the issue for months amid increasing pressure to act as record-high gas prices weigh down the President's poll ratings. Lawmakers in both parties have expressed resistance to suspending the tax, with some Democrats, including House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi, worried the move could have a limited effect on prices if oil companies and retailers pocket much of the savings.

"A gas tax holiday alone will not, on its own, relieve the run up in costs that we've seen," the White House said in a statement. "This unique moment when the war in Ukraine is imposing costs on American families, Congress should do what it can to provide families breathing room."

'Goal is preservation of Tibetan culture, not Independence'

Dalai Lama says he is not trying to propogate Buddhism

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
WASHINGTON DC

The political goal is not independence for Tibet, but the preservation of Tibetan culture, the Dalai Lama said via a recorded message released on Wednesday. The video of the 86-year-old spiritual head of the Tibetans was played before a group of parliamentarians and other supporters of the Tibetan cause, gathered in Washington DC for the 8th World Parliamentarians Convention on Tibet (WPCT).

"Politically we are not seeking Independence for Tibet. What most concerns us is the importance of preserving and safeguarding our culture and language," he said.

Dalai Lama

"And the reality today is that there are growing numbers of Chinese people taking interest in Buddhism. Under such circumstances, if we can revive and extend Tibetan culture of warm heartedness and ethics, it will help not only Tibetans, but others with a Buddhist background to such as the Mongolians and on a larger scale the people of China," the Dalai Lama said.

He emphasised that he was not propagating Buddhism. "We are not trying to propagate Buddhism, cultivating a warm heart and becoming good human being is of benefit whether you are religious or not," he said.

Others who spoke at the opening session of the convention included Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, and actor Richard Gere.

Saudi Crown Prince visits Turkey

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ANKARA

Saudi Arabia's *de facto* ruler will on Wednesday take another step out of his international isolation by paying his first visit to Turkey since the 2018 murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi in the kingdom's Istanbul consulate. The talks in Ankara between Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Turkey's Recep Tayyip Erdogan come one month before U.S. President Joe Biden visits Riyadh for a regional summit focused on the energy crunch caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Mr. Erdogan's decision to revive ties with one of his biggest rivals is also driven in large part by economics and trade.

The Turkish leader is scheduled to receive the Crown Prince at his presidential palace and then host him at a private dinner.

Pakistan secures IMF deal to restore $6 billion stalled aid

Monetary body has put forth conditions for Islamabad

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD

Cash-strapped Pakistan has secured a deal with the International Monetary Fund to restore the stalled $6 billion assistance package and unlock doors for financing from other international sources, according to a media report on Wednesday.

The make-or-break deal was reached on Tuesday night following the IMF staff mission and the Pakistani team, led by Finance Minister Miftah Ismail, agreeing on an understanding on the 2022-23 Budget after the authorities committed to generating Rs. 43,600 crore more taxes and increase petroleum levy gradually up to Rs. 50 per litre, the *Dawn* newspaper reported.

The extended fund facility package of $6 billion was agreed upon in July 2019 for a period of 39 months. So far only half of the promised money has been reimbursed. The revival of the facility will immediately provide access to $1 billion.

The MEFP would also contain certain prior actions that would be necessary for implementation before the IMF board takes up Pakistan's case for approval and the subsequent disbursement of about $1 billion next month.

Citing top government sources, the report said that to win over the global lender, the Pakistani side agreed to start charging on all petroleum products a levy which will be gradually increased by Rs. 5 per month to reach a maximum of Rs. 50.

In yet another retreat, the government agreed to impose 1% poverty tax on firms earning Rs. 15 crore, 2% on those earning Rs. 20 crore, 3% on over Rs. 25 crore and 4% on Rs. 30 crore.

Israel uncovers remains of mosque

Discovery sheds light on region's transition from Christianity to Islam, say officials

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
RAHAT

Israeli archaeologists on Wednesday unveiled a rare ancient mosque in the country's south that the antiquities officials said sheds light on the region's transition from Christianity to Islam.

The remains of the mosque, believed to be more than 1,200 years old, were discovered during works to build a new neighbourhood in the Bedouin city of Rahat, the Israel Antiquities Authority said in a statement.

The mosque located in the Negev desert contains "a square room and a wall facing the direction of Mecca", with a half-circle niche in that wall pointing to the south, the IAA said.

Past forward: Israeli archaeologists working at the newly discovered ancient mosque in Negev on Wednesday. • AFP

"These unique architectural features show that the building was used as a mosque," the authority said, noting it probably hosted a few dozen worshippers at a time.

A short distance from the mosque, a "luxurious estate building" was also discovered, with remains of tableware and glass artefacts pointing to the wealth of its residents, officials of the IAA said.

Three years ago, the authority unearthed another mosque nearby from the same era of the seventh to eighth century AD, calling the two Islamic places of worship "among the earliest known worldwide".

The mosques, estate and other homes found nearby illuminate "the historical process that took place in the northern Negev with the introduction of a new religion – the religion of Islam, and a new rulership and culture in the region," the IAA said.

Indian origin woman is U.S. science adviser

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON

Leading Indian-American scientist Dr. Arti Prabhakar has been nominated by Joe Biden as a top science adviser to the U.S. President, a decision hailed by the Indian-American community as "historic." If confirmed by the Senate, Dr. Prabhakar would make history as the first woman, immigrant, or person of colour to head Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). She will also be the latest highly-qualified professional from the Indian-American community to be named for a key position in the Biden administration.

MARKET WATCH

	22-06-2022	% CHANGE
Sensex	51,823	-1.35
US Dollar	78.32	-0.24
Gold	50,487	-0.39
Brent oil	111.4	-2.72

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	668.30	-20.80
Apollo Hosp	3787.75	-20.45
Asian Paints	2666.35	-12.00
Axis Bank	626.80	-9.70
Bajaj Auto	3635.65	-9.60
Bajaj Finserv	11435.55	-314.35
Bajaj Finance	5439.60	-109.55
Bharti Airtel	642.85	-11.45
BPCL	305.90	4.70
Britannia Ind	3403.65	-25.65
Cipla	916.90	-21.30
Coal India	179.35	-5.45
Divis Lab	3599.60	0.30
Dr Reddys Lab	4260.90	-7.75
Eicher Motors	2662.75	-40.05
Grasim Ind	1324.90	-9.20
HCL Tech	961.30	-25.30
HDFC	2159.25	-15.45
HDFC Bank	1330.25	-6.30
HDFC Life	551.80	-12.65
Hero MotoCorp	2524.45	25.25
Hindalco	316.45	-22.80
Hind Unilever	2202.85	-2.15
ICICI Bank	686.60	-9.50
Indusind Bank	777.65	-21.20
Infosys	1437.25	-12.65
ITC	265.30	-4.60
JSW Steel	550.40	-25.80
Kotak Bank	1669.70	-11.80
L&T	1478.75	-21.55
M&M	983.80	-14.15
Maruti Suzuki	7782.75	2.15
Nestle India Ltd.	16775.15	-196.65
NTPC	137.65	-2.30
ONGC	134.85	-4.25
PowerGrid Corp	210.65	0.30
Reliance Ind	2505.60	-78.50
SBI Life	1070.45	-25.90
State Bank	447.65	-3.10
Shree Cement	18496.75	-54.60
Sun Pharma	809.30	-8.15
Tata Consumer Products Ltd	708.95	-18.30
Tata Motors	393.10	-4.50
Tata Steel	838.10	-46.70
TCS	3222.95	11.00
Tech Mahindra	980.00	-20.10
Titan	2031.20	-46.90
UltraTech Cement	5409.95	-8.95
UPL	613.65	-40.55
Wipro	411.25	-13.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 22

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	78.19	78.51
Euro	82.25	82.60
British Pound	95.78	96.18
Japanese Yen (100)	57.45	57.69
Chinese Yuan	11.65	11.70
Swiss Franc	80.99	81.36
Singapore Dollar	56.27	56.50
Canadian Dollar	60.27	60.52
Malaysian Ringgit	17.74	17.83
Australian Dollar	53.96	54.18

Source:Indian Bank

No option but to raise rates: RBI's Patra

MPC's minutes show unanimity on urgent need to tackle inflation, Varma urges quicker tightening

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

India's central bank has no choice but to raise interest rates to keep a lid on inflation expectations as supply-side measures would take time to bring down prices, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said at the last meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee that concluded on June 8 with the RBI raising its policy rate by 50 basis points, the minutes of the meeting show.

"Although the ongoing inflation surge is a supply phenomenon... mending supply always takes time," Dr. Patra noted. "To gain time for supply to respond, the blunt instrument of monetary policy has to be deployed – there is no other recourse at this juncture," he stressed.

Revenge spending: Broadening inflation shows there is some demand able to afford the high prices, says Patra. • FILE PHOTO

Observing that the fact that inflation remained elevated and was broadening indicated that there was some demand that was able to afford these high prices possibly on account of 'revenge spending' in the wake of the pandemic, the RBI Deputy Governor overseeing monetary policy said, "this warrants some monetary policy front load to modulate it [demand] so that even though it is not at full strength, it does not exceed the available supply".

"The objective should be to take the repo rate to a height that is at least above the four quarters ahead forecast of inflation, knowing that monetary policy works with lags," he said. "Our endeavour should be to bring down inflation into the tolerance band by the last quarter of 2022-23 or the first quarter of 2023-24 and progressively align it to the target during the course of 2023-24," Dr. Patra added.

"This should minimise the loss of output," he added.

'Catching up to do'

MPC member Jayanth R. Varma, who has in the past voiced dissent with the majority view, said the MPC had a lot of catching up to do given that since April the MPC had raised the policy rate by 90 basis points while during the same period the RBI's projection of inflation for 2022-23 had risen by 100 basis points to 6.7%.

"The real policy rate, therefore, remains more or less where it was in April," he said at the latest meeting, the minutes released on Wednesday show.

"Clearly, more needs to be done in future meetings to bring the real policy rate to a modestly positive level consistent with the emerging inflation and growth dynamics," Mr. Varma stressed.

He also suggested the time was 'ripe' for the MPC to start providing projections of the future path of the policy rate as it would help anchor inflation expectations.

Rupee touches new low of 78.32; Sensex falls 1.4%

Stocks to eye Fed Chair's comments

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

The rupee weakened to a new closing low of 78.32 against the dollar on Wednesday as foreign funds continued to pull out. The S&P BSE Sensex slid 1.4% to close at 51,822.53.

Losses were led by Tata Steel (5.24%), Wipro (3.29%), Reliance (3.07), IndusInd Bank (2.67%) and HCL Tech (2.61%).

"After a breather, bears took tight control over markets," said Ajit Mishra, vice-president, Research, Religare Broking Ltd. "The benchmark started on a muted note tracking weak Asian markets and further negative bias continued throughout the day as selling pressure widened in metals, media and energy," Mr. Mishra added.

"The broader markets, mid-cap and small-cap ended in-line with the benchmark. All sectoral indices ended in the red," he said, adding markets would first react on Thursday to the U.S. Fed chairman's comments. "Besides, progress of monsoon, crude price and currency movement will be key," he observed.

India reports FY22 CAD of 1.2% as trade deficit widens

Net FPI recorded an outflow of $16.8 billion: RBI data

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

India recorded a current account deficit (CAD) of 1.2% of GDP in 2021-22 against a surplus of 0.9% in 2020-21 as the trade deficit widened to $189.5 billion from $102.2 billion a year earlier, according to data released by the Reserve Bank of India.

"The current account balance recorded a deficit of 1.2% of GDP in 2021-22 as against a surplus of 0.9% in 2020-21 as the trade deficit widened to $189.5 billion from $102.2 billion a year ago," the RBI said.

Net Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows at $38.6 billion in 2021-22 were lower than $44 billion in 2020-21.

Merchandise trade deficit sequentially narrowed to $54.5 billion in the March quarter

Net Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI) recorded an outflow of $16.8 billion in 2021-22 as against an inflow of $36.1 billion a year earlier.

For the January-March 2022 quarter, the CAD narrowed on a sequential basis to $13.4 billion, or 1.5% of GDP, against $22.2 billion, or 2.6% of GDP, in the December 2021 quarter.

"The CAD printed well below our forecast of $16 billion in Q4 FY2022 benefiting from higher-than-expected secondary income," said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at rating agency ICRA.

"On a year-on-year basis, although gold imports halved, and the services trade surplus rose, this improvement was dwarfed by the widening of the merchandise trade deficit led by imports of commodity inputs such as crude oil, coal and fertilisers, as well as electronic goods."

Merchandise trade deficit narrowed to $54.5 billion in the March quarter compared with a deficit of $60.4 billion in the previous quarter. The deficit in the year earlier period, however, had stood at $41.7 billion.

(With inputs from PTI, Reuters)

Fed's Powell won't rule out 100 bps hike

REUTERS

Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell on Wednesday said he would not take any specific size of rate increase "off the table", when asked if the central bank would raise rates by as much as 100 basis points at once to contain inflation.

Earlier, Mr. Powell told the U.S. Senate Banking Committee that the Fed was "strongly committed" to bringing down inflation, which is running at a 40-year high.

"It is essential that we bring inflation down if we are to have a sustained period of strong labor market conditions that benefit all," he stressed, adding that the Fed would be looking for "compelling evidence" of easing price pressures.

'Air India's future under Tatas is positive , but challenges persist'

New CEO's Singapore experience will help the airline: Walsh

JAGRITI CHANDRA
DOHA

Air India's future under Tatas is positive, but will require a lot of work, which makes for an interesting challenge for the new CEO of the airline, Campbell Wilson, said IATA Director General Willie Walsh.

Willie Walsh

"Everything points to Air India regaining their previous status as a global airline with a very strong brand that is profitable, well run, [and] provides good services," Mr. Walsh said on the sidelines of the International Air Transport Association's (IATA) AGM in Doha.

"It is going to be an interesting challenge for the new CEO who has experience in Singapore," Mr. Walsh added. "I don't think privatising Air India sorts all of the problems. I think there is a lot of work that needs to be done," said Mr. Walsh.

"There will be need to change the culture for a business that has almost been dependent on receiving financial support from the Indian government," he added.

He expressed confidence in Tata Sons' ability to turnaround the airline given the fact that they were a "well-run organisation with deep pockets who can support a loss-making Air India for a period of time".

Mr. Wilson, who visited Air India's office on Monday, is set to join once all formalities are completed. His last job was as the CEO of Scoot, a low-cost subsidiary of Singapore Airlines, prior to which he held several positions in the parent airline.

(The writer was in Doha at IATA's invitation)

IN BRIEF

Vietjet announces more flight services to India

MUMBAI

Vietnam's Vietjet has introduced four more services linking top destinations of India and Vietnam, including Mumbai - Ho Chi Minh City/Hanoi and New Delhi/Mumbai - Phu Quoc. The Mumbai - Phu Quoc route will see the operation of four weekly flights. Passengers can book tickets on these routes now for fares starting at $18 for one way, Vietjet said.

EV firm Okinawa to set up plant for ₹500 crore

NEW DELHI

Electric two-wheeler maker Okinawa Autotech said it will invest ₹500 crore to set up a new manufacturing plant at Karauli in Rajasthan with an annual capacity of 10 lakh units. The plant, the company's third, would be spread across 30 acre and fully operational from October 2023, Okinawa said in a statement, adding that the plant would employ more than 5,000 people.

AU Small Finance Bank unveils LIT credit card

MUMBAI

AU Small Finance Bank (SFB) has introduced LIT Credit Card. "Last year, we became the first SFB to start a credit card portfolio," said Sanjay Agarwal, MD & CEO. "Soon, we observed digitally-savvy and GenZ consumers needed more control over products they use. This led to the evolution of the LIT Credit Card which brings the features of many credit cards into a single card."

Airtel Africa to buy back up to $300 million debt

NEW DELHI

Bharti Airtel International (Netherlands) BV, which manages Airtel's Africa business, has issued a tender offer to buy back up to $300 million (about ₹2,348 crore) of senior notes, the telco said. The offer to purchase $300 million worth senior notes has commenced on June 21 and will expire on July 19, Bharti Airtel said in a regulatory filing. PTI

May sees highest number of domestic air passengers

The 1.2 cr. highest in last 2 years: DGCA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The month of May this year saw the highest number of air travellers since the pandemic at 1.20 crore, according to DGCA's monthly data.

May also saw a growth of 9.8% in domestic air passenger traffic.

The numbers seen in the month are close to those seen in February 2020 – at 1.23 crore passengers – before travel restrictions on account of COVID-19 began to be imposed in the country, followed by a total ban on domestic and international flights in the last week of March 2020.

Air India was, however, the only airline in the country that saw passenger numbers fall in May as compared to April. Its market share also shrank to 6.8% - which was the lowest in the recent past. It was also the first airline in the country that saw passenger numbers fall in May compared with April.

IndiGo, which has been increasing its share of the pie, cornered 57.9% of the market share.

The robust demand also led to airlines improve their seat occupancy.

SpiceJet saw 89.1% of its seats sold on an average, followed by GoFirst at 86.5% and Vistara at 84.8%.

Akme to tap digital lending for rural India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

Akme Fintrade (India) Ltd., a two-decade-old non-banking finance company, is developing a fintech-led digital lending platform to offer lending solutions for rural people under the brand name aasaanloans.com, its MD said.

"Aasaanloans.com will utilise technology and the experience generated from serving customers for more than two decades to ensure right amount of credit to the right borrower at right time and that too digitally, interacting in their own language," said Nirmal Kumar Jain. "The platform will provide customised products in their own language with end-to-end processing of loans to happen digitally."

Digital wearables can expose users to cyberattacks: IEEE

'Users perceive wearables as having low cybersecurity risk'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
BENGALURU

Digital wearables, smartwatches and fitness trackers pose unique threats to the security and privacy of customer data, warned the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), a global outfit for technical professionals.

"By connecting a wearable to an extended ecosystem, one is exposing a larger attack surface," cautioned Aiyappan Pillai, Senior Member of IEEE.

"Cybersecurity experts look at this as a supply chain that includes a data generator, an analytics engine and a service provider. Each link in the chain, including the connecting networks, presents a potential risk."

As per a document shared by the IEEE, most criminal intrusions of computer networks have a financial motive. That may lead people to conclude that wearables have a low cybersecurity risk. But wearables data, especially in healthcare settings, is often tied to financial information.

"Depending on the organisation from which it was obtained, stolen health data can be extremely valuable because it often includes so much personally-identifiable information - including birthdays, email addresses and other login information, that can be used for identity-theft purposes," said Kevin Curran, Senior Member of IEEE.

India has been witnessing a massive adoption of wearable technology in the recent years.

The wearables market in India had clocked a record-breaking, double-digit growth in the first quarter of 2022, with shipments surpassing 13.9 million devices, as per IDC.

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through e-procurement Portal Only)

Bids are invited through GoK e-Procurement portal: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** for procurement of following materials for Circulating Water treatment required for Raichur Thermal Power Station, Yermaras Thermal Power Station & Bellary Thermal Power Station for the period of one year in staggered manner to respective projects as per the quantity schedule.

1). **KPCL/2022-23/IND_5987, Dtd: 20.06.2022,** 185MT Antiscalant (100%)/ Anti Corrosive compound.
2). **KPCL/2022-23/IND_5990, Dtd: 20.06.2022,** 185MT High Stress Polymer.
3). **KPCL/2022-23/IND_5992, Dtd: 20.06.2022,** 75MT Bio dispersant & 260MT Biocide (100%).

The bid documents can be downloaded from GoK e-procurement website from **20.06.2022.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Chief Engineer (Thermal Designs), KPCL, #3, 2nd Floor, Green Building, (Drugs Controller Department Premises), Palace Road, Bangalore-560001.** Mobile: **09449596598,** E-mail: **cetdkpcl@karnataka.gov.in / eem2cetdkpcl@karnataka.gov.in.** Website: **www.kpcl.karnataka.gov.in**

Bank of Baroda
Bengaluru Zonal Office: 2nd Floor, 41/2, M G Road Trinity Circle, Bengaluru – 560001

TENDER NOTICE

Bank of Baroda invites Bids: "Request for Proposal for Supply, Installation and Commissioning of UPS Systems in Branches of Bengaluru Urban, Bengaluru Rural, Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Ramanagara, Tumkur, Mandya, Mysore, Chamarajnagar districts". Details are available under Tenders section on Bank's website: **www.bankofbaroda.com**
Last date for receipt of the Application: 14.07.2022 by 3.00 PM

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
Probate C.P. No. 04/2022
IN THE MATTER OF THE GOODS OF MRS. BINU MULLICK (DECEASED) INTESTATE

BETWEEN: 1) Ms. Disha Mullick, Aged about 41 years D/o Late Mrs. Binu Mullick R/at D-34, 2nd FL Jangpura Extension, New Delhi-110014. Rep by her duly constituted Power of Attorney Holder Mr. Dhruv Mullick, Aged about 38 years Residing at No. 10 Prestige Cedars, Convent Road Bengaluru – 560025.
2) Mr. Dhruv Mullick, Aged about 38 years, S/o Late Mrs. Binu Mullick Residing at No.10, Prestige Cedars, Convent Road, Bengaluru-560025 ...PETITIONERS
AND: -Nil- ...RESPONDENT

WHEREAS, the above Petitioners have filed a Petition under Section 278 r/w Section 218 and 300, Part IX of the Indian Succession Act,1925 praying for grant of Letters of Administration in the name of Mrs. Binu Mullick, in respect of the properties of the Deceased, Mrs. Binu Mullick, who died on 6th day of October, 2021 and resided at No.10, Prestige Cedars, Convent Road, Bengaluru-560025.

Be it known that no caveat has been entered and that the said petition is posted for hearing on **11.07.2022** and all persons claiming to have any interest in the estate of the Deceased may come and see the proceedings before the grant of Letters of Administration

Given under my hand and the seal of this Court, this the 30th day of May and 13th day of June 2022, respectively.

By Order of the Court, Asst. Registrar High Court of Karnataka, Bengaluru

Counsel for Petitioners
B.V Nidhishree, Advocate
Chambers: F-02, 2nd Floor, Benson Boulevard, No. 77/1, Nandidurga Road, Benson Town Bengaluru- 560046. Tel: 080 4166 8468

PUBLIC NOTICE

The general public is hereby informed that my clients intend to purchase the property described in the schedule hereunder from its present owner **Dr.S.R.Aravind (HUF),** represented by its Karta, Dr. S R Aravind, son of late S.G.Ramachandra, residing at #359-360, 19th Main, 1st Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru North, Bengaluru 560 010 he having acquired title to the same under a Sale Deed dated 20.08.2004 registered as Document SHV-1-02733/2004-05 of Book I, stored in CD No.SHVD161 at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Shivajinagar, Bengaluru

All persons having or claiming any right, title, estate or interest by way of inheritance, share, sale, mortgage, transfer, lease, tenancy, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, devise, bequest, exchange, pre-emption, possession or encumbrance or otherwise howsoever into or upon the Schedule Property herein below described are called upon to intimate the same in writing to the undersigned, at the below given address, along with all the documents relating to such claim within **10 days** from the date of publication of this notice, failing which any such claim, of any party, shall be deemed to have been waived for all legal practical purposes and shall not be entertained hereafter and I shall opine that the Schedule Property is free of any claims and my clients will be free to proceed with the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Residential Apartment **No.304** on the **3rd Floor** bearing Municipal **No.33/16** having PID No.81-4-33/16 measuring **2025 Sq.ft** super built up area together with two covered car parking **Slot Nos.12 & 13** in the basement level and **1090.62 sq.ft** (6.705%) undivided share, right, title, interest in the multistoried building known as **"NE-RATNALAYAM"** at property bearing No.33, Aga Abbas Ali Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru 560 042 and bounded as follows:

East : No.13, Haudin Road
West : Aga Abbas Ali Road
North : No.32, Aga Abbas Ali Road
South : No.36, Aga Abbas Ali Road

Vivek Anand Anthony Britto
Vir Anthony Britto
Advocates
"Daisville", 633, 5th Main, Indiranagar II Stage, Bengaluru-560038
Place: Bengaluru Date: 22.06.2022

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT, MRS. ASHA. B. NATH w/o. Mr. Badri Nath is the absolute owner of the property described in the Schedule hereunder.

It is brought to the notice of the general public that, our client has negotiated and decided to purchase the Schedule Property from the above said owner. All persons having any claim against or to the Schedule Property or any part thereof by way of inheritance, mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, Agreement to Sell, G.P.A, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned at their office **within 15 days from the date of publication hereof,** failing which our client shall proceed without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing **BDA Site No. 351,** presently comes under BBMP, situated at Sector - 4, Hosur - Sarjapur Road Layout, Agara, Bangalore, measuring **East to West 15.24 Meters** and **North to South 24.38 Meters**., in all measuring **371.55 Square Meters (4000 Sq. ft)** and bounded on the :-

East by : Site No. 352;
West by : Site No. 350;
North by : Site No. 342 and 343;
South by : Road;

Dated this 23rd day of June 2022 at Bangalore

M/S. LEGAL NEXUS, ADVOCATES & CONSULTANTS,
No. 428, First Floor, 25th Cross, 24th Main
HSR Layout, Sector 2, Bangalore – 560 102.
Phone: 080-65555914,Mobile: 9945688974; 9164150690

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division,
39th Cross, 18th Main, Jayanagar 4th 'T' Block, Bangalore-560 041.

No. EE(JN)/DM/e-proc/03/2022-23 Date: 21.06.2022

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division invites the tenders from the eligible tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value of work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)
1.	Improvements to Roads ,Drain and Culverts in Bovi Colony and surrounding area in Ward No. 169 (Reserved for SC).	50.00	50,000/-
2.	Improvements to Roads, Drain and Culverts in Muslim Colony and surrounding area in Ward No. 169 (Reserved for SC).	50.00	50,000/-
3.	Improvements to Roads, Drain and Culverts in Tilaknagar and surrounding area in Ward No. 169 (Reserved for Others).	53.00	1,06,000/-
4.	Special repairs to quarters from Block 1 to 3 in Arasu Colony in Ward No. 170 (Reserved for Others).	99.00	1,98,000/-
5.	Special repairs to quarters from Block 4 to 6 in Arasu Colony in Ward No. 170 (Reserved for Others).	99.00	1,98,000/-
6	Special repairs to quarters from Block 7 to 9 in Arasu Colony in Ward No. 170 (Reserved for Others).	49.00	98,000/-

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-procurement portal. **2)** Last date for submission of tenders: **30.06.2022 upto 4.00 p.m. 3)** Date of opening of Bids: **01.07.2022 at 4.30 p.m.** Further details can be accessed from GoK e-procurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** or contact e-procurement Helpdesk : 080-22441076 or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Jayanagar Division.

STAY PROTECTED FROM COVID-19, NO CARELESSNESS UNTIL THERE IS A CURE.
Wear Mask | 6 Feet Follow Physical Distancing | Maintain Hand Hygiene

Jaiswal flourishes, but Mumbai pegged back on day one

Shaw chips in with 47; Madhya Pradesh makes its opponent work hard for the runs with disciplined bowling

RANJI FINAL

K.C. VIJAYA KUMAR
BENGALURU

An overcast Wednesday with a cold breeze and vehicles crawling through clogged roads, all typical Bengaluru traits, also ushered in slow-burn cricket at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium. And in typical dogged fashion, Mumbai, after opting to bat against Madhya Pradesh, scored 248 for five at close on the opening day of the Ranji Trophy final.

Prithvi Shaw (47) and Yashasvi Jaiswal (78) did the hard yards upfront, and Sarfaraz Khan (40 batting) held firm while the birds returned to roost at the nearby Cubbon Park. Mumbai's steady runs and Madhya Pradesh's persistence through a four-man attack constituted the day's overwhelming flavour.

Opening gambit

In the morning, after Mumbai skipper Shaw elected to bat, his counterpart Aditya Shrivastava commenced the attack with left-arm spinner Kumar Kartikeya replicating his opening gambit from the semifinal against Bengal. Shaw nudged a single, Jaiswal lunged forward to unsettle the spinner and the first over went for five runs.

Through the first session the duo kept the scoreboard ticking while also surviving a near run-out, muffled leg-before-wicket appeals and play-and-miss routines. Seamer Anubhav Agarwal bowled the second over, and while there was some movement on offer, Shaw flicked a four. Shrivastava employed his bowlers in short spells, favouring the spin and pace trope while the odd sledging was also on view. The spectators had some constant action to savour and feeble 'RCB' chants too surfaced.

Shaw briefly struggled against seamer Gaurav Yadav in an over that had a surgeon's precision coated with a seductive lure outside the off-stump. Southpaw Jaiswal square-drove a silken four off off-spinner Saransh Jain and Shaw joined the party, hoisting a six, followed by a back-foot punch for four against Kartikeya.

But Madhya Pradesh never allowed the openers to feel completely at home despite their 87-run association. Shaw played all over an Agarwal delivery, the timber rattled and, later at lunch, Mumbai had 105 for one.

Flattering to deceive

After the break, while Jaiswal continued unhindered, two successive partners – Armaan Jaffer and Suved Parkar – flattered to deceive. Jaffer lobbed one off Kartikeya and Parkar, tentative against Jain, kept the close-in circle happy. But, with Sarfaraz joining him in the middle, Jaiswal slashed a four off Yadav. However, against the run of play, Jaiswal's attempted drive off Agarwal proved fatal.

Sarfaraz then coped with an lbw appeal and found company in Hardik Tamore and Shams Mulani. Ironically once stumps were drawn, the sun finally peeped out as another day of attrition awaits the rivals.

The scores:

Mumbai – 1st innings: Prithvi Shaw b Agarwal 47 (*79b, 5x4, 1x6*), Yashasvi Jaiswal c Yash Dubey b Agarwal 78 (*163b, 7x4, 1x6*), Armaan Jaffer c Yash Dubey b Kartikeya 26 (*56b, 3x4*), Suved Parkar c Aditya Shrivastava b Jain 18 (*30b, 2x4*), Sarfaraz Khan (batting) 40 (*125b, 3x4*), Hardik Tamore c Rajat Patidar b Jain 24 (*44b, 3x4*), Shams Mulani (batting) 12 (*43b, 1x4*); Extras (b-1, lb-1, w-1): 3; Total (for five wkts. in 90 overs): 248.

Fall of wickets: 1-87 (Shaw, 27.4 overs), 2-120 (Armaan, 40.6), 3-147 (Parkar, 50.1), 4-185 (Jaiswal, 59.4), 5-228 (Tamore, 74.5).

Madhya Pradesh bowling: Kumar Kartikeya 31-6-91-1, Anubhav Agarwal 19-3-56-2, Saransh Jain 17-2-31-2, Gaurav Yadav 23-5-68-0.

Toss: Mumbai.

Pivotal innings: Jaiswal (78) continued from where he left off in the semifinals as Mumbai reached 248 for five. • K. MURALI KUMAR

Trying my best to improve, says Jaiswal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BENGALURU

He is all of 20 but Yashasvi Jaiswal knows the art of making a strong comeback statement, like he did for Rajasthan Royals in the IPL last month and, more recently, in the Ranji Trophy knockouts for Mumbai this month.

Having scored a hundred in the quarterfinals and two tons in the semifinals, Jaiswal was looking set for his fourth century before Madhya Pradesh seamer Anubhav Agarwal snapped him for 78 on Wednesday.

"Yes, I'm a bit sad about it, but this is cricket. You have to experience both the good and the bad [part], and that's something I've learnt by now," Jaiswal said after the day's play. "In cricket, things won't go how you want, but I'm trying my best to improve as a cricketer and as a human being," he said.

In the IPL, Jaiswal was dropped after the first few games but made a comeback for Royals, scoring impressive half-centuries.

In Ranji Trophy too he was axed at the league stage, then came back with a bang from the quarterfinals, scoring nearly 500 runs.

Indians vs Leicestershire warm-up game from today

Pant, Pujara, Bumrah to play for LCCC

Gearing up: The Indians take a breather during a practice session. • TWITTER/LEICSCCC

ANI
LEICESTER

Ahead of the fifth scheduled Test match against England on July 1, team India will lock horns with Leicestershire County Cricket Club (LCCC) in a four-day warm-up match beginning on Thursday.

The rescheduled match from July 1 at Edgbaston is a part of last year's five-match Test series that had to be delayed after the fourth Test due to a Covid outbreak in the Indian camp.

The series is in favour of the visitors who are leading 2-1 after defeating the hosts in the fourth Test at the Oval last year by 157 runs.

Meanwhile, star players of the Indian team Cheteshwar Pujara, Rishabh Pant and Jasprit Bumrah along with Prasidh Krishna have been added to the rival Leicestershire County squad. They will play under county captain Sam Evans. Captain Rohit Sharma will be leading the Indian side.

Match starts at 3.30 p.m.

Jamie Overton to debut

Anderson injured; final Test from today

NZ IN ENGLAND

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LEEDS

Jamie Overton will make his debut for England in the third and final cricket Test against New Zealand starting on Thursday after fellow fast bowler Jimmy Anderson was ruled out because of an ankle injury.

Overton's twin brother, Craig, was also in the squad and an option to replace Anderson but England went with the more inexperienced of the siblings in the only change to the team at Headingley.

Unassailable lead

England holds an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series. England captain Ben Stokes said Anderson had a "puffy ankle," and wasn't sure if he'd be healthy enough to play in next month's Test against India.

Breaking through: Jamie Overton, in action, has been preferred over his twin brother Craig. • GETTY IMAGES

Women in Blue ready to bounce back

Mithali and Jhulan's absence will give opportunity to Meghana and Simran

INDIA IN SL

P.K. AJITH KUMAR

After the disappointment at the World Cup, the Women in Blue are ready for international cricket once again. They would be hoping to erase those unpleasant memories from New Zealand with a fine show on the Sri Lanka tour which kicks off at Dambulla on Thursday with the first of the three T20I matches. The teams will also play a three-game ODI series.

Strongest pillars

The tour is not just the first after the World Cup where India failed to reach the knockout stage, but also the first after Mithali Raj's retirement and the omission of Jhulan Goswami. They have been the strongest pillars of the team for the last couple of decades.

Their absence will provide opportunities for the likes of batter S. Meghana and seaming all-rounder Simran Bahadur, both of whom had come up with fine performances at the recent Women's T20 Challenge at Pune last month.

Harmanpreet Kaur, who has taken over as captain from Mithali, said the team would work on certain aspects of the game in the series. "One area we have to focus on is the tendency to struggle after losing early wickets," she said.

"We have also been working hard on our fielding. The girls are looking in great shape."

Interaction with Laxman

Ahead of the tour, the team had trained at the NCA, where the players had interacted with V.V.S. Laxman, who heads the academy. "We got an opportunity to speak to him after the World Cup," Harmanpreet said.

"We were motivated by what he told us. We were all very happy that he was there with us continuously and giving suggestions."

Match starts at 2.30 p.m.

Positive intent: Skipper Harmanpreet will be keen to see India make amends for the World Cup debacle. • GETTY IMAGES

Zaheer Abbas in hospital

Zaheer Abbas. • FILE PHOTO

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

Pakistani batting great Zaheer Abbas has been admitted to the intensive care unit (ICU) of a private hospital here.

According to *Geo News*, Abbas, 74, was moved to the ICU three days after getting admission in Saint Mary's Hospital in Paddington, where he was put on oxygen support.

Abbas had contracted COVID-19 while travelling from Dubai to London. He had complained of pain and was diagnosed with pneumonia after arriving in the British capital.

"He is currently on dialysis and the doctors have advised him to refrain from meeting people," *Geo News* quoted sources as saying.

England sweeps series

ENGLAND IN NED

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
AMSTELVEEN (NETHERLANDS)

Man-of-the-match Jason Roy and Jos Buttler dominated the Netherlands attack as England coasted to an eight-wicket victory in the third ODI here on Wednesday to seal the series 3-0.

The home side, earlier, collapsed from 203 for three in the 40th over to 244, a total that never looked remotely enough against the power-packed 50-over world champion.

Roy and Phil Salt (49) scored briskly at the start of the England reply before Salt and Dawid Malan were both dismissed by Paul van Meekeren with the score on 85. But Roy (101 not out) powered to a hundred off 86 balls and the in-form Buttler was unbeaten on 86 with five sixes.

England reached the target with nearly 20 overs to go. "Another great victory," said Buttler, who was named man-of-the-series.

The scores: Netherlands 244 in 49.2 overs (O'Dowd 50, de Leede 56, Edwards 64, Willey 4/36) lost to England 248/2 in 30.1 overs (Roy 101 n.o., Salt 49, Buttler 86 n.o.).

Tarundeep, Ankita emerge best Indians

SPORTS BUREAU

Tarundeep Rai and Ankita Bhakat emerged the best Indians in the individual recurve rankings at the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Paris on Wednesday.

Tarundeep gathered 670 points to be placed 27th among men. Comeback-man Pravin Jadhav (668), Jayanta Talukdar (667) and Neeraj Chauhan (649) took the 30th, 32nd and 73rd slots.

Ankita logged 644 points to be 31st among women. Deepika Kumari had a 4 and a missed shot before securing 638 points to be 37th. Simranjeet Kaur (638) was 38th, while Ridhi Phor (626) was 54th.

Other results (Compound):

Men: Quarterfinals: Turkey bt India 235-234. **Second round:** India bt South Africa 234-232.

Women: Bronze medal match: France bt India 233-231. **Semi-finals:** Great Britain bt India 231-228. **Quarterfinals:** India bt Brazil 230-227.

Consider Tejaswin for CWG 'on merit': Delhi HC to AFI

Federation asked to come back with its decision on Friday

ATHLETICS

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

The Athletics Federation of India's selection committee had a scheduled meeting on Wednesday, ostensibly for other reasons but the focus remained on high jumper Tejaswin Shankar after the Delhi High Court directed the federation to consider him for the Commonwealth Games (CWG).

Tejaswin had challenged the AFI's decision to exclude him from the quadrennial event starting July 22, despite achieving the qualifying mark, for not participating in the recent Inter-State meet or seeking exemption.

"It is directed that the selection committee shall consider the case of the petitioner on merits of his jump and the fact that he has not participated in inter-State championships may not be the sole criteria for rejecting his candidature," Justice Jasmeet Singh said, directing the AFI to consider the case on merit and not participation.

The National record holder cleared the mark of 2.27m at the NCAA Track and Field Championships in Oregon, incidentally the venue for the World Championships next month.

The best: Tejaswin celebrates his win at NCAA meet recently. • TWITTER/KSTATETFXC

Only two jumpers have had a better outing this season – New Zealand's Hamish Kerr (2.31m) and Canada's Django Lovett (2.28m) – a point raised by his lawyer Malak Bhatt.

Three submissions

"We had three submissions. One, that he was a clear medal prospect with only two other CWG contenders doing better. Two, that he met the AFI's own standards at an event recognised by the AFI and World Athletics. Three, he had sought an exemption as per AFI guidelines in February itself via messages to the chief coach. The court has asked the AFI to come back with their decision on Friday," Bhatt told *The Hindu*.

AFI president Adille Sumariwalla refused to comment. "It's sub-judice and I will not be making any comment till after the hearing on Friday," he said.

Indian women finish third

Swamp USA 4-0 in their last match

FIH PRO LEAGUE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ROTTERDAM

The Indian women's hockey team produced a dominating performance to outclass USA 4-0 and finish a creditable third in its debut season at the FIH Pro League, here on Wednesday. Vandana Katariya (39th, 54th), Sonika (54th) and Sangita Kumari (58th) were the scorers.

Argentina had already won the title with Netherlands finishing second.

Janneke Schopman's girls broke the deadlock in the 39th minute when Vandana got a faint touch to deflect in Gurjit Kaur's flick from India's fifth penalty corner. The Indians had many chances in the last two quarters before they scored thrice in four minutes. Vandana scored in the 54th minute, Sonika found the net from a goalmouth melee before Sangita completed the tally. Salima was voted the player-of-the-match.

Player-of-the-match Salima. • TWITTER/THEHOCKEYINDIA

India beats Ukraine

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBLIN

The Indian women's hockey team continued its unbeaten run in the U-23 five-nation tournament with a comprehensive 3-0 win over Ukraine here on Wednesday.

Nikita Toppo (33rd), Manju Chorsiya (44th) and Beauty Dungdung (55th) scored a goal each as India outclassed their opponents in the match.

India will play against USA in its fourth and final league stage match of the tournament on Thursday.

The result: India 3 (Toppo 33, Chorsiya 44, Dungdung 55) bt Ukraine 0.

LIVE TELECAST

Ranji Trophy: (final), Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 9.30 a.m.
England vs New Zealand: 3rd Test, day 1, Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 3.30 p.m.
TNPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.15 p.m.

IN BRIEF

Froome in Premier-Tech's team for Tour de France

PARIS

Four-time winner Chris Froome was named on Wednesday in Israel Premier-Tech's team for next month's Tour de France. Froome, 37, claimed the last of his Tour successes in 2017 but has struggled for form since suffering career-threatening injuries in June 2019. AFP

Fabio Vieira joins Arsenal on long-term contract

LONDON

Arsenal announced that midfielder Fabio Vieira has joined the club from FC Porto on a long-term contract. The 22-year midfielder made 54 appearances for Porto and developed through the club's youth academy. ANI

Laver Cup goes to Vancouver and Berlin

PARIS

Vancouver and Berlin will host the 2023 and 2024 editions of the Laver Cup, the international indoor hard court men's team tennis tournament that pitches Team Europe against Team World, organisers announced on Wednesday. This year's event will be held between September 23-25 in London. AFP

Osaka and James launch media company

LOS ANGELES

Naomi Osaka is launching a new media company 'Hana Kuma (flower bear) in partnership with basketball legend LeBron James aimed at telling stories that cross cultural barriers, the tennis star announced on Tuesday. It will produce stories that are "culturally specific but universal to all audiences". REUTERS

Pakistan recalls fit-again Yasir Shah

KARACHI

The Pakistan selectors on Wednesday recalled the fit-again Yasir Shah for the two-Test series against Sri Lanka next month after the leg-spinner's career was put on hold by nagging injuries last year. He played the last of his 46 Tests 11 months ago in the West Indies.

The squad: Babar Azam (Capt.), Mohammad Rizwan, Abdullah Shafique, Azhar Ali, Faheem Ashraf, Fawad Alam, Haris Rauf, Hasan Ali, Imam-ul-Haq, Mohammad Nawaz, Naseem Shah, Nauman Ali, Salman Ali Agha, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Saud Shakeel, Shaheen Shah Afridi, Shan Masood, and Yasir Shah. PTI

Bayern confirms Mane signing from Liverpool

BERLIN

Bayern Munich has signed Sadio Mane from Liverpool on a three-year deal, both clubs confirmed on Wednesday. The transfer fee is reportedly around €41 million. AFP

Aditya shines for Vimanapura

BENGALURU

Aditya (23 points) helped Vimanapura SC defeat Sahakarnagar SC 87-47 in the semifinals of the State 'C' Division basketball men's league championship.
The results (semifinals): Vimanapura 87 (Aditya 23, Rahul 16) bt Sahakarnagar 47 (Joseph 15, Pranav 12); Vivek's 78 (Joshua 19, Jonathan 19) bt DRDO 64 (Parthiv 21, Athul 17).

Milak delights his home crowd

Hungarian betters his own 200m butterfly world record; Dressel pulls out

SWIMMING

REUTERS
BUDAPEST

Hungary's Kristof Milak brought joy to his home crowd by smashing his own world record to win the men's 200m butterfly, powering to the gold medal in a time of 1:50.34, at the World Championships on Tuesday.

Olympic champion Milak beat the record he set at the 2019 Worlds in Gwangju by 0.39 seconds and finished 3.03 seconds ahead of silver medallist Leon Marchand of France.

"It was a fantastic feeling. As soon as I stepped in the starting area, I didn't hear or see anything. It was like being in a dream. I waited three years to swim a personal best and it came off," he said.

Powering ahead: Milak on his way to the 200m butterfly gold. •GETTY IMAGES

Electric late burst

Bobby Finke of the United States won the men's 800m freestyle with an electric late burst to finish ahead of Germany's Florian Wellbrock and Ukrainian Mykhailo Romanchuk.

The win for Finke was a boost for the U.S team after 100m free Olympic and World champion Caeleb Dressel pulled out of the event for medical reasons. Dressel later decided to withdraw from the championships.

Nic Fink delivered a second victory for the U.S., winning the 50m breaststroke in 26.45, three hundredths of a second ahead of Italy's Nicolo Martinenghi with another American Michael Andrew taking bronze.

USA claimed the 4x100m mixed medley race with ease, with Hunter Armstrong leading off in backstroke before Fink extended the lead in breaststroke.

China's Yang Junxuan won the women's 200m freestyle in a time of 1:54.92, beating Australia's highly rated 18-year-old Mollie O'Callaghan.

The results:

Men: 800m freestyle: 1. Bobby Finke (USA) 7:39.36s, 2. Florian Wellbrock (Ger) 7:39.63, 3. Mykhailo Romanchuk (Ukr) 7:40.05.

200m butterfly: 1. Kristof Milak (Hun), 1:50.34s (WR), 2. Leon Marchand (Fra) 1:53.37, 3. Honda Tomoru (Jpn) 1:53.61.

50m breaststroke: 1. Nic Fink (USA) 26.45s, 2. Nicolo Martinenghi (Ita) 26.48, 3. Michael Andrew (USA) 26.72.

Women: 200m freestyle: 1. Yang Junxuan (Chn) 1:54.92s, 2. Mollie O'Callaghan (Aus) 1:55.22, 3. Tang Muhan (Chn) 1:56.25.

Mixed 4x100m medley relay: 1. USA 3:38.79s, 2. Australia 3:41.34, 3. the Netherlands 3:41.54.

Khelendrajit upsets top seed Ankur

Suresh Raj also enters quarterfinals

TABLE TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
ALAPPUZHA

Qualifier Yengkhom Khelendrajit (Manipur) upset top seed Ankur Bhattacharjee (Bengal) to enter the Youth Boys (under-17) quarterfinals in the 83rd National junior and youth table tennis championships at the N.C. John memorial YMCA TT Arena here on Wednesday.

Khelendrajit's defensive game put him in good stead against Ankur, who struggled to find any sort of rhythm. After losing a close first set 10-12, Ankur bounced back to take the second 11-7.

But in the seesaw third set the Manipur lad kept his nerve to crawl back for a 13-11 win. Khelendajit held the aces in the fourth set and mixed his shots well to pocket the match 12-10, 7-11, 13-11, 11-9.

Tamil Nadu's Suresh Raj Preyesh entered the quarterfinals with a 11-7, 11-6, 11-8 win over Ayan Ghosh. In the quarterfinals, Suresh will meet Jash Modi who beat Sujal Banik (TTFI) 15-13, 11-3, 11-6 in the pre-quarterfinals.

In the under-19 category, it was business as usual for top seed Payas jain who breezed into the pre-quarterfinals with 12-10, 11-8, 11-9 win over Jayabrata Bhattacharjee (Bengal). However, K.J. Akash (Karnataka) upset sixth seed H. Jeho (Manipur) 12-10, 11-4, 11-8 in the second round

The results: Under-17: Pre-quarterfinals: Yengkhom Khelendrajit (Man) bt Ankur Bhattacharjee (Ben) 12-10, 11-8, 11-9; Suresh Raj Preyesh (TNTTA) bt Ayan Ghosh (Ben) 11-7, 11-6, 11-8; Jash Modi (Mah) bt Sujal Baink (TTFI) 15-13, 11-3, 11-6.
Under-19: Second round: Payas Jain (Del) bt Jayabrata Bhattacharjee (Ben) 12-10, 11-8, 11-9; Josh Modi (Mah) bt Swastik Athanikar (Mah) 14-12, 11-7, 7-11, 11-4; Varun Balusuri (Tel) bt Aditya Swagnik (TTFI) 16-14, 11-7, 7-11, 11-4; K.J. Adarash (Kar) bt H. Jeho (Man) 12-10, 11-4, 11-8; Sarat Mishra (UP) bt Bhaskar Praneet (Ben) 18-16, 11-9, 12-10.

Priyanshi advances

INDIANS ABROAD

SPORTS BUREAU

Qualifier Priyanshi Bhandari beat Yatawee Chimcham of Thailand 6-1, 3-6, 6-1 in the first round of the $15,000 ITF women's tennis tournament in Chiang Rai, Thailand on Wednesday.

Other results:
$15,000 ITF, Chiang Rai, Thailand: Women: Singles (first round): Chompoothip Jundakate (Tha) bt Sanjana Sirimalla 6-3, 6-0; Supapith Kuearum (Tha) bt Ashmitha Easwaramurthi 6-0, 6-1.
Men: Singles (first round): Naoki Tajima (Jpn) bt Rishi Reddy 6-4, 3-6, 6-3; Pol Wattanakul (Tha) bt SD Prajwal Dev 7-6(5), 7-6(4).
Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Rishi Reddy & Parikshit Somani bt Chien Hsun Lo & Bang Shuo Yin (Tpe) 6-3, 6-4.
$15,000 ITF, Monastir, Tunisia: Men: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Enzo Wallart (Fra) & Karunuday Singh bt Keisuke Saitoh & Daiki Yoshimura (Jpn) 7-5, 2-6, [10-2].
Women: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Chiho Mushika & Mao Mushika (Jpn) bt Astrid Cirottle (Fra) & Jennifer Luikham 6-3, 6-4.

Dinesh Karthik jumps 108 spots

Ishan Kishan the only Indian in the top-10 in T20 rankings

CRICKET

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

On the back of his recent exploits, veteran Dinesh Karthik jumped a massive 108 spots to 87th on the latest ICC T20 rankings for batters, even as young opener Ishan Kishan broke into the top 10.

Kishan finished the series with two half centuries against South Africa and was the leading run scorer with 206 runs at an average of 41. That form catapulted the left-hander up one spot to sixth on the latest T20 rankings for batters.

Pakistan skipper Babar Azam still holds the top spot on the T20 batting rankings and Kishan is the only Indian player rated inside the top 10.

Yuzvendra Chahal was the biggest mover on the T20 rankings for bowlers with the India spinner jumping three places to 23rd.

R. Jadeja maintains his top position in the Test all-rounders' list with 385 rating points.

Bangladesh captain Shakib al Hasan moved up to second position with 346 rating points.

Virat Kohli (742) maintained his 10th position in the Test batting chart, while seasoned off-spinner R. Ashwin (850) and pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah (830) occupied the second and third positions in bowling respectively.

Karthik. •AFP

Rumeli Dhar announces her retirement

Rumeli. •FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

Former India women's team captain Rumeli Dhar on Wednesday announced her retirement from all forms of the game.

The right-handed batter and medium-pacer announced her decision through an *Instagram* post.

"23 years of my cricket that started from Shyamnagar in West Bengal has finally come to an end as I announce my retirement from all formats of cricket," Dhar said in her post.

The 38-year-old played four women's Tests, in which she scored 236 runs with one half-century. She picked up eight Test wickets since debuting against England in 2005 at Delhi. She played her last Test against the same opponent in 2006 at Taunton.

She also played 78 WODIs, scoring 961 runs and taking 63 wickets, with six half-centuries since her debut against England in 2003 at Lincoln. She played her last ODI in 2012.

Dhar, who played for Bengal among other domestic sides, also featured in 18 T20s, in which she scored 131 runs and took 13 wickets after making her debut against England Women in 2006.

At 34, she made an unexpected comeback to the India T20 team in 2018 against South Africa, and played her last game in the format against Australia Women at the Brabourne Stadium the same year.

One of the highlights of her career was taking India to the final of the 2005 Women's World Cup in South Africa.

"The journey has been prolonged one with highs and lows. The high was representing the Indian Women's cricket team, playing the World Cup final in 2005 as well as leading the Women in Blue," said Dhar.

According to Dhar, a "string of injuries" plagued her career but she always came back stronger.

She thanked the BCCI, her family, friends, and all the teams that she represented for their contributions.

Silver for Ronaldo

ASIAN CYCLING

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Ronaldo Singh won the silver medal in the men's sprint event on the concluding day of the Asian cycling championship at the Indira Gandhi Velodrome on Wednesday.

Ronaldo had earlier won bronze in the 1 km time trial and the team sprint.

Birjit Yumnam won bronze in the junior 15km points race, missing the silver by one point. In the 10 km women's scratch race, Chayanika Gogoi finished third.

India was seventh in the seniors section, with four silver and 13 bronze medals. Japan topped with 15 gold, seven silver and two bronze medals.

Ronaldo Singh... a good ride. •AP

In the junior category, India came fifth with two gold, six silver and 15 bronze medals.

In the para events, India was third behind Thailand and Japan with two gold, two silver and two bronze medals.

Serena registers win on her comeback

Partnering Jabeur, gets the better of Tormo and Bouzkova

TENNIS

ASSOCIATED PRESS
EASTBOURNE (ENGLAND)

As "What A Feeling" boomed around Devonshire Park, Serena Williams strode onto centre court at Eastbourne to a standing ovation for her first competitive tennis match in nearly a year.

Celebrating

Around 90 minutes later, fans were on their feet again, celebrating a comeback win for the 23-time Grand Slam singles champion at the Wimbledon warm-up event on England's south coast.

Serena partnered Ons Jabeur to victory over Sara Sorribes Tormo and Marie Bouzkova in the first round of the women's doubles.

Back in the groove: Serena and Jabeur recovered from a set down to prevail. •REUTERS

Serena and Jabeur recovered from losing the first set 6-2 to win the second 6-3 and then the match tiebreaker 13-11 on their third match point.

The win means Serena will have at least one more competitive match before playing singles at Wimbledon as a wild-card entry. Main-draw play at the All England Club starts Monday.

Last competive match

It was at the grass-court Slam where Serena was last seen in competitive action in 2021.

She was playing in the first round when she lost her footing and her right leg buckled, leading to Serena retiring from the match.

With no competitive activity since then, she is ranked No. 1,204 in singles and wasn't among the seeded players announced by Wimbledon on Tuesday.

SAI approves Bajrang's USA training

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

The Sports Ministry's Mission Olympic Cell (MOC) on Wednesday approved Tokyo Olympic bronze medallist Bajrang Punia's 35-day training camp in the United States ahead of the Commonwealth Games.

The Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) will fund Bajrang's travel, boarding and daily costs during training from June 25 till July 30. The MOC also approved financial assistance towards the procurement of two T20 Proteam Look TT track bikes for TOPS development cyclists Ronaldo Singh and David Beckhame.

LIV Golf 'rebels' allowed to play at the British Open

PGA Tour planning to revamp its schedule with new, lucrative tournaments

GOLF

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
LONDON

Players who have signed up to thebreakaway Saudi-backed LIV Golf series will be allowed to compete in next month's 150th British Open, organisers the R&A announced on Wednesday.

The U.S. PGA Tour has banned those involved in the rebel venture after the inaugural event in Britain earlier this month but organisers of last week's U.S. Open did not follow suit.

That stance will be followed at the year's final Major, which starts at St. Andrews in Scotland on July 14.

"The Open is golf's original championship and since it was first played in 1860, openness has been fundamental to its ethos and unique appeal," said R&A chief executive Martin Slumbers.

True to its name: The organisers have said openness has been fundamental to The Open's ethos. •PICTURE COURTESY: THEOPEN.COM

"Players who are exempt or have earned a place through qualifying for the 150th Open in accordance with the entry terms and conditions willbe able to compete in the championship at St. Andrews.

"We are focused on staging a World-class championship in July and celebrating this truly historic occasion for golf."

Four-time major champion Brooks Koepka is the latest big-name player to defect to the LIV Golf circuit, along with Mexico's Abraham Ancer, the World No. 20.

Reports on Tuesday said the PGA Tour was planning to revamp its schedule with a series of lucrative new tournaments – the clearest indicator yet of a strategy to combat the rise of LIV Golf.

Three new tournaments

Plans outlined by Monahan include boosting purses to at least $20 million in eight existing marquee tournaments and the introduction of three new $25 million tournaments that would feature no cuts and limited fields. The schedule overhaul could be in place by the 2023 season.

LIV Golf has steadily been luring star names to sign with the upstart circuit that offers $25 million in prize money for each of its 54-hole tournaments.

Other changes proposed by Monahan on Tuesday included a return to a calendar year schedule runningfrom January to December.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Parvez Ahmed in lead

Parvez Ahmed took the lead at the end of the second round of the Karnataka State-ranking tenpin bowling tournament at Amoeba (Church Street). Parvez scored a total pinfall of 2302, averaging 190.33 in six games in second round. Girish Gaba (2294) and Prem Kumar (2279) are in second and third positions respectively.

In the women's category, J. Preemal with a total pinfall of 1964, averaging 163.67, and Judy Alban (1911) qualified for knockout round.

Bengaluru FC signs Javi Hernandez

Bengaluru FC signed Spanish attacking midfielder Javi Hernandez on a two-year deal ahead of the 2022-23 season, the club announced on Wednesday.

The 33-year-old has represented ATK, ATK Mohun Bagan and Odisha FC in the Indian Super League in recent seasons, and is a product of the Real Madrid Castilla. Before making the switch to India in 2019, Hernandez turned out for clubs in Spain, Sweden, Romania, Poland and Azerbaijan.

Parvez.

Narrow win for Flying Devils

Flying Devils edged out Skav Strikers 4-3 in the Bangalore Squash League.